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Ankara Lays Charge Of Treason On Ocalan

Closed-Court Ruling Means Kurdish Leader Faces Death Penalty

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — The Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan, who was captured in Kenya last week, was formally charged Tuesday with treason, a

crime that can carry the death penalty.

There have been no executions in
Turkey since 1984, but popular sentiment here appears to favor capital punyears been portrayed in the press and official statements as a horrifically evil figure and is widely held responsible for all of the estimated 30,000 deaths that his 14-year rebellion has cost.

Under Turkish law, all death sen-tences must be confirmed by a vote of Parliament. In the present climate, there seems little doubt that Parliament would

vote overwhelmingly to confirm such a sentence applied against Mr. Ocalan.

The court session Tuesday at which Mr. Ocalan was charged was held before a single magistrate at the prison is lend of Length in the See of Mayoran island of Imrali in the Sea of Marmara southwest of Istanbul. Mr. Ocalan has been held there in isolation since his return to Turkey a week ago.

The session was closed to the press and public.

The European Union appealed Mon-day for permission to send observers to Mr. Ocalan's trial, but Turkey reiterated his earlier refusal Tuesday. "The EU's idea of sending observers to the trial means to oppose and encourage inter-ference in the independent judiciary," the Foreign Ministry said. "This at-titude, which is against the principle of a state of law, is not acceptable."

The statement said observers not connected to organizations might be admitted to the trial. It said presiding judges would decide on individual cases.

Foreign lawyers for Mr. Ocalan have been prevented from entering the country, but several Turkish lawyers active in human rights groups have accepted requests from his relatives to form a defense team.

Clashes between army units and guerrillas loyal to Mr. Ocalan have continued since his arrest. A military statement issued Tuesday said 14 guerrillas have been killed since Sunday. As is customary, there was no mention of

military casualties. Turkish newspapers reported that Mr. Ocalan has agreed to tape an appeal to his followers to lay down their weapons, but no such tape has appeared. Military officers have said they are planning to drop thousands of copies of a photo showing Mr. Ocalan in handcuffs in front of a Turkish flag over areas where

guerrillas are active. In a report released this week, investigators from the Council of Europe said Turkey had made progress in improving its treatment of prisoners but was still far from meeting ideal standards. The report, issued by the council's

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Mrs. Albright conferring Tuesday with Jozias Van Adsen, right, the Dutch foreign minister, and Knuk Woleback, left, the foreign minister of Norway.

Kosovar Team Accepts Conditional Agreement

Talks to Resume After Albanians Consult at Home

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribione

PARIS - The Kosovo peace conference in France was suspended Tuesday until March 15, with the ethnic Albanians and the Serbian authorities in stark disagreement with the major ele-ments of a settlement that the United States and other outside powers sought

to impose.
Facing complete deadlock when the official negotiating deadline came and went in mid-afternoon, Western officials were spared from announcing failare when the ethnic Albanian delegates finally agreed to spend two weeks weighing the political blueprint for an autonomous Kosovo in Serbia.

That outcome amounted to "real progress," according to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who had taken per-sonal charge of the talks.

"The Kosovar delegates have now said that they will sign in two weeks, and it's normal for them to proceed with consultations at home because they're starting to play by democratic rules of the type that don't exist for the Serbs." said the State Department spokesman, James Rubin.

If the Kosovars sign, he said, "we'll have the NATO air trigger" back in two weeks to compel Serbian acceptance of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization peacekeeping force in Kosovo — a step opposed by Belgrade. Officials said that fell far short of the political break-

Mrs. Albright was deprived of her strongest card against Mr. Milosevic -the threat of NATO air strikes --- when the ethnic Albanians refused to sign the agreement Tuesday.

As a result, Mr. Milosevic emerged unscathed from yet another international confrontation.

Mr. Rubin acknowledged that Mr. Milosevic might have been temporarily

In Serbia, Mr. Milosevic is perceived the winner in the Kosovo talks. • General Wesley Clark faces a new peacekeeping role. Page 5.

elated by the difficulties in the talks, but he said that Mrs. Albright had "really turned it around" in the final bours.

A measure of the relief emerged when an official confided that "we feel 100 percent better than last night," when there were fears of outright failure. The results of the 17 days of talks at

Rambouillet, southwest of Paris, were also defended by the negotiations' co-chairmen, Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine of France and also Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain, who said: Today is not the end of the process but only the end of Phase One. But the Kosovars' grudging last-minute consent to consider a settlement

a conference to seal the accord would convene in France. through that Western officials had expected and could put fresh strains on the U.S.-led consensus on Kosovo that has emerged in the last six weeks.

Mrs. Albright's comments scribing the peace plan for NATO-po-liced autonomy as "the best deal either side could hope to achieve" - reflected frustration over the Kosovar delegation's refusal to accept the proposed political settlement.

It provided for self-government for three years but stopped short of offering independence, a political impossibility for Mr. Milosevic.

This record left doubts about the sincerity of the Kosovar delegation's promise to sign. The ethnic Albanian guerrillas who resisted the political package during 17 days at Rambouillet, a diplomat said, seemed unlikely to warm to the idea back in their home

surroundings, amid ever-present re-minders of Serbian repression. Despite the lack of agreement, Kosovo seemed unlikely to see a quick resumption of major hostilities or of Serbian atrocities against the civilian population, NATO officials said, explaining that allied warplanes remained poised for punitive air strikes if Serbian troops or paramilitary forces went on the offensive again in the embattled province. But the outlook remains as explosive as ever, the diplomats said, pointing to

See KOSOVO, Page 5

Blair Starts Britain on Path Toward Using Euro

By Tom Buerkle International Herald Tribian

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair on Tuesday sent the clearest signal yet that he intends to take Britain into the single European currency, unveiling a provisional blueprint for converting the British economy from the pound to

The plan includes significant goverument spending on preparations, even before the question of membership is put to Britons in a referendum.

The plan stopped short of committing the government to entering the euro zone or bringing forward the timetable for a decision, which Mr. Blair reiterated would be taken by referendum some-

time around the year 2001 or 2002. But the fact that the prime minister took it upon himself to present the blueprint to the House of Commons, and urged business and government agen-cies to accelerate their preparations for a new currency, was intended to demon-strate Mr. Blair's determination to join the curo as long as it proves successful, senior aides said.

"The government itself will be making active preparations for the euro in the belief that it will be in this country's interests to join in the future should our economic tests be met," Mr. Blair told the House of Commons. "Business should start to do the same."

Mr. Blair's statement drew attacks both from hardened opponents of the enro, who accused the government of trying to push the nation into the single currency without a proper debate, and supporters of early entry, who wanted a

See POUND, Page 6

By Jeff Gerth and David E. Sanger

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON --- Swayed by car-

ticisms that commercial satellite deals

with China could threaten national se-

curity, the Clinton administration has

decided to reject the sale of a \$450

million satellite to a consortium with

close ties to the Chinese government,

The decision Monday casts consid-

erable doubt on the future of satellite

sales to the Chinese and reverses the

policy, in effect for several years, of

promoting commercial satellite deals

with China. The United States cham-

pioned the transactions to help Amer-

ican business and exports and to help

But in the last several months, the

administration has faced a battage of

investigations and official reports that

have called the satellite sales and as-

sociated expertise a threat to American

China make technological advances.

senior officials here said.

U.S. to Bar Satellite Sale

In Shift, Security Concerns Kill Deal With China

Avalanche Smashes Austrian Town, Killing 7



At the Swiss resort of Evolene, an avalanche left a deadly white wake as it rumbled down the mountain. Two other avalanches hit the ski village, killing three people and leaving seven missing.

INNSBRUCK, Austria - An avalanche roared into a small town in the Alps in western Austria on Tuesday, reportedly killing at least seven people and leaving about 35 missing.

At least 20 people, some of them critically injured, had been rescued by early evening, Austrian television said. The report said seven bodies had been recovered and estimated that 35 people remained buried as night set in.

The snowslide in Galtuer, a town in the Paznaun Valley in Tyrol Province, struck in the late afternoon. Countless avalanches have been roaring down Alpine slopes in recent days, stranding thousands of tourists in the worst snow chaos in the Alps in years.

"We were drinking hot mulled wine when suddenly it started," Franz Wenko, a hotel operator in the town, told Austrian television. "The lights went out. It was dark. There was only dust and snow. We got out of

there as fast as we could." Major Wartok, an Austrian Army officer who declined to give his first name, said it was assumed that the other missing people were trapped in houses that had been buried

in the avalanche. He said they had a better chance of surviving than those caught in the open, where the weight of the snow soon suffocates them. In the wreckage of houses,

See SNOW, Page 5

Euro Health Depends on Budget Pact, Bonn Says

EU leaders Friday in Bonn to warn of economic and financial fallout if nasince its Jan. 1 inauguration, trading at

By John Schmid

BONN — German officials warned Tuesday that the already wobbly euro could fall further and spark a "crisis" if European Union leaders failed to agree by March on a reduction of EU farm and regional-aid spending.

The German government, which holds the rotating EU presidency, is planning to use an informal gathering of

security and a boon to China's military capability. The findings have indicated

that the program of satellite sales might

have given the Chinese the scientific

expertise to improve their missilelaunching capacity.

Disapproval of the deal is likely to be

another sensitive issue raised next week when Secretary of State Madeleine Al-

bright visits China as relations erode

over other issues like human rights and

and State departments objected to al-

lowing China to launch the satellite. The Commerce Department favored the

sale, but the State and Defense departments overuled it, concluding that the

technology to place the satellite in orbit

would help the Chinese military make

its intercontinental ballistic missile fleet

The deal involves a Hughes Elec-

tronics Corp. satellite designed to set up

See TECH, Page 6

The decision came after the Defense

tional interests block an overhaul of the budget of the 15-nation bloc, officials said as they laid out Germany's plans. "Markets will think the European leaders cannot pull their act together,' said one official, who like the others

spoke on the condition of anonymity. The comments helped to drive the euro down sharply Tuesday. Conceived

as a strong, world-class reserve cur-

\$1.0992 Tuesday in New York from its early January high of just over \$1.18. One official said that, in a worst-case scenario, a slumping euro could force the European Central Bank to tighten credit to defend the currency just as a

rapid economic deceleration was pressuring the ECB to ease interest rates.

Oskar Lafontaine, the German finance minister, heaped pressure on the ECB to cut rates in Parliament Tuesday, warning that deflation could take hold if interest rates were not cut soon to stimulate growth. "There is a need to act" on interest-rate policy, he said.

Tensions will accompany the infor-

mal summit meeting Friday in Bonn even without fears of a corrency crisis. In Brussels, farmers from across the EU staged their second day of mass protests

See EURO, Page 12

AGENDA

Texan Convicted In Racist Killing

JASPER, Texas - A white supremacist was convicted of capital murder Tuesday for chaining a black man to a pickup truck and dragging him to his death. John William King was the first of three men to be tried in the slaying. Mr. King now faces either life in prison or execution. Earlier article, Page 3.

Greenspan Praises U.S. on Economy

Americans "can justifiably feel proud" of their economy, and it should remain solid this year, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said Tuesday. He cautioned, however, that a

stock market sell-off and renewed inflation were still potential

North Korean Desperation Reports of Executions to Halt Hunger Crimes

While several thousand people watch By Don Kirk

International Herald Tribun

DONGSUNG, China - North Korea is increasingly turning to public executions to try to curb a rampant crime wave -- ranging from murder and cannibalism to smuggling and robbery -by people desperate for food, according to refugees from the starving country.

Refugees, interviewed in this village about 15 kilometers (10 miles) west of the North Korean border and elsewhere in the region, reported a countrywide pattern of summary public trials and executions, usually by shooting but oc-

casionally by hanging.
Without exception, the refugees reported they had witnessed several - in some cases as many as a dozen executions.

They said that the pattern of executions is the same: The prisoners, already half-dead from beatings, are dragged, bound and sometimes gagged, in front of a security official.

silently, the official reads the charges against the prisoners over a loudspeaker and asks if they admit their guilt. They nod or mumble, "I admit," and then are

"For one prisoner, there are three riflemen," said Park Chul, a 30-yearold farmer who came by night to Dongsung in hopes of a better life among the several million ethnic Koreans in northeastern China.

"If there are nine prisoners, there are three riflemen each. They line them up and shoot at the same time. One shoots three times in the head, the other three times in the chest, the third, three times

Other refugees, ranging from children begging in marketplaces to workers roaming the Chinese countryside in search of odd jobs and handouts, say that the prisoners' offenses include theft, cannibalism and murdering chil-

See KOREA, Page 6

Inflation Under Control, Except in the Size of Houses

By William Booth

Rushington Paga Service ANTA MONICA, California - First there was that little Beach Bungalow. It disappeared. Then the cozy Craftsman down the street, fed into the maw of the demolition Dumpsters.

'Oh, my,' Doris Sosin thought. "What's happening here?"

Then the gracious Spanish in need of some loving care was bulldozed and replaced by a 6,000-square-footer (557 square meters): a two-story, neo-Mediterranean, pink stucco palace as big and boxy as an apartment complex, bulging to the property line with five bedrooms, six baths, a nanny suite, home gym, two offices, underground parking and those soaring entry foyers that announce like nothing else that the new owners have arrived.

Ms. Sosin learned a new and unflattering term to describe a phenomenon occurring across the nation: Her neighborhood was being invaded by

She vowed to stop it. And she is not

The American resort towns of Aspen. Colorado: Park Ciry, Utah; Jack-son Hole, Wyoming, and Palm Beach, Florida, all have limited the size of new houses. Similar ordinances have passed or are being batted about in Sarasota, Florida: Oakland; Seattle: Dallas and a dozen other locales.

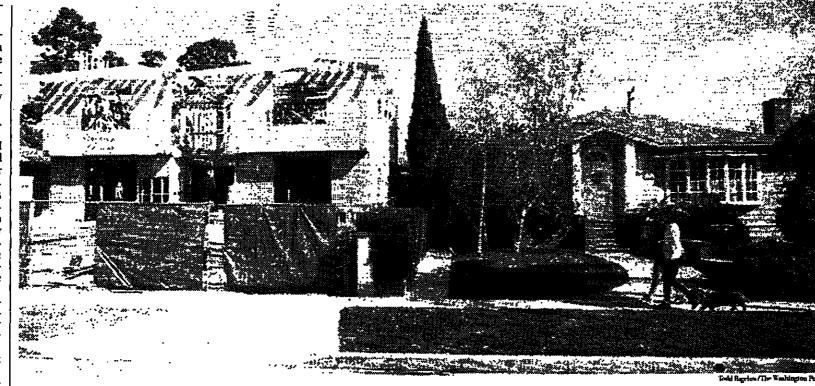
The debate touches on one of the most personal and telling of choices: In an age of greater affluence and changing family dynamics, what should the American home be like?

And how big is too big in the land of the free and of zealously guarded property rights, where one family's dream home is a neighbor's worst

"There is an ongoing explosion in the size," said Robert Stern, the new dean of the School of Architecture at Yale University. "Houses keep get-ting larger and larger and larger.

It is a return to the kind of house once reserved for the very rich," said Mr. Stern, who has designed his share of large houses. "But now the middle class also expects quite a big house."

Today, the megarich are building more megahouses in the United States than ever before. Fueled by the bull market on Wall Street and low inflation, the market for the truly large house is exploding among technologists in Silicon Valley, lobbyists in suburban Washington and dentists in Dallas. Houses so big they make Mount Vernon look quaint. Singlefamily houses so spacious that their builders compare them to entire Tuscan villages.



Residents in Santa Monica. California. walking their dog past an older home that is about to be 'mooned' by the house under construction next door. New minimansions in the beachside town bulge to the property line with multiple bedrooms and even more baths - plus home gyms, and those soaring entry foyers that announce like nothing else that the new owners have arrived.

Bill Gates erected himself a 40,000square-foot house in Medina. Washington, and why shouldn't the richest man alive be able to do so? Ira Rennert, an industrialist, got a tut-tut in The New Yorker for building a 42,000-square-foot house in Sagaponack on Long Island. Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, built before new regulations were in place and went for 55,000 square feet in Aspen — just about the size of the White House.

But, as Mr. Stern points out, many in the upper-middle and middle classes want the "minimansion" too.

Where the American middle classes once were content to move out of stuffy tenements and narrow row houses and into tract homes in the newly created suburbs, the houses of the post-World War II generation feel cramped to many new families: lightless places with galley kitchens and no place for the television, which had not been invented when they were built.

Even in Levittown, New York. smaller houses are being converted to minimansions rapidly.

"You don't replace old things,"
Mr. Stern said. "You add. You have a phone? You get a fax machine. But now you need a computer, because you get e-mail. In the home office. All this takes more space.

People want a bathroom for every child. Then they discovered, perhaps in hotels, two sinks in the bathroom. Brushing teeth in rhythm. You gotta have that. Plus a bathtub combo, a separate shower and tub," he said. But not any tub. A tub you could launch a flotilla in.

MERICANS NOT ONLY have more things and need more space for them, but houses are used differently. They are home offices now, for many. With women in the work force, nannies and baby-sitters are needed, and so are rooms for live-in help. Many children of the middle classes don't play down the block anymore; they are shuttled to gymnastics and tae kwon do, and so yards are shrinking to provide more indoor space for video games. The smaller the yard, the smaller the upkeep, and many homeowners don't have the time or desire anymore to mow their own yards.

But what makes a big house a monster home? Like pornography, it seems to be in the eyes of the beholder: People think they know it when they see it.

Critics of gargantuanism call the houses blockbusters, Wal-Marts, starter castles and trophy homes; they decry them as "houses on steroids"

and "houses with thyroid problems."

When a really big house is built next to a smaller one, overpowering its diminutive neighbor, it is said to be

'mooning."
But the trend toward bigness also has its roots in economics. Sarah Susanka, a Minneapolis architect and author of "The Not So Big House," maintains that when owners decide to rebuild a teardown or make additions, real-estate agents and builders convince them that the most bang for the buck is added square footage. If you're going to add some space to a galley kitchen, why add 200 square feet when you can add 800? It does not add much to the cost of construction but may increase resale value.

Ms. Susanka contends that this can lead to a bad decision.

"I've never had a client tell me they want a big showy home. But that's what many people are buying, and I'm finding a lot of megahouse disappointment out there," she said. "It's not what they expected. It's too much

In the Santa Monica spat, the com-

munity struggling with the issue is in the "north-of-Montana Avenue" neighborhood, the poshest area in this beachside town Doris Sosin's newly formed group

of homeowner activists has succeeded in placing a temporary limit on the girth of homes, and a full-blown ordinance is being debated vigorously.

Another neighborhood association. Citizens for a More Beautiful Santa

Monica, was formed recently to fight these opponents of megahouses. "The problem here is they want to regulate taste, and that is a very emotional issue because you're talking

about your home," Amy Goldberg, one of the group's founders, said. Ms. Goldberg believes that, within reason, property owners should be able to build the kind of house they want. It is, after all, their money and

their home. She explained the drive to expand. "People have two and three kids,"
Ms. Goldberg said. "You want each to have their own bedroom. So that's four bedrooms, with the master. I need five, because when my relatives come, they stay with us. You need a home office.

'You need this and that,' she

Experts Urge New Therapy For Cancer Of the Cervix

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By Denise Grady

NEW YORK - Cancer experts are recommending a major change in the treatment of advanced cervical cancer. urging that chemotherapy be added to the standard treatment: radiation. The recommendation is based on five new studies showing that the combinationreduces death rates from the disease by 30 percent to 50 percent.

Officials at the National Cancer Institute announced the findings on Monday and said they were mailing the new recommendation to 20,000 cancer specialists worldwide in a "clinical announcement," only the fourth such notification in the past 10 years. Such announcements are used to alert doctors to important advances in treatment.

The five new studies will not be pub-lished in medical journals until later this year, but the journal editors agreed it was imperative to release the information early so that it could be used to help patients now being treated. The New England Journal of Medicine, which will publish three of the papers in April, has already posted them on its Web site.

The new findings apply to women with cancers classified as "locally advanced" or "invasive," meaning that the tumor on the o is large or has spread to nearby lymph nodes or other parts of the pelvis. About 25 percent of women with cervical cancer in the United States fall into that category. An estimated 12,800 new cases of the disease are expected in 1999.

The recommendation for combined treatment does not apply to women with earlier stages of the disease, who do not need such aggressive therapy, or to women with cancer that has spread beyond the pelvis, who are considered unlikely to benefit. They also do not apply. to women who have already completed a course of radiation treatment.

"This is the first substantive change in the treatment of advanced cancer of the cervix in 40 years," said Dr. Mitchell Morris, who studied the combination treatment at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Dr. Edward Trimble, head of the surgery section at the cancer therapy evaluation program at the National Cancer Institute, said: "We think that based on these data the standard of care should change." He said he expected the combination treatment to save thousands of lives a year.

Among women aged 35 to 54, cervical cancer is the fifth leading cause of death from cancer, after tumors of the breast, lung, colon and rectum and OVALY.

U.S. Said to Put Spies in UN's Iraq Inspection Teams in 1991

By Philip Shenon

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency began placing Amer- American spies almost from the start. ican spies on teams of UN weapons inspectors in Iraq only a year after the being a CIA agent, a charge that he end of the Gulf war of 1991 and worked denies. closely with the United Nations to organize the inspections, a former arms edged that the CIA gave assistance to the inspector says.

said in a new book that he and a senior CIA official had planned some of the largest and most complex inspections, make clear that the agency's involveundertaken by the United Nations, and that the UN inspection teams had included "CIA paramilitary covert op-

He said a coup attempt against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq in June the Clinton administration and espe-

has been criticized repeatedly by the Clinton administration, speculated in his book that the intelligence agency might

have orchestrated the timing.

The book, "Endgame," supports the Iraqi allegation that the United Nations inspection teams were riddled with

Mr. Hussein has accused Mr. Ritter of tified. American officials have acknowl-

UN inspection program and provided The former inspector, Scott Ritter, specialists to work on the inspection But Mr. Ritter's account seems to

> ment was far more extensive - and began earlier - than has been previ-The book, being published in April by Simon & Schuster, is harshly critical of

1996 coincided with the presence of an cially of Secretary of State Madeleine operatives.

Mr. Ritter, who does not provide documentation for all of his conclusions and

tion team because he was considered too aggressive in dealing with the Iraqis. The CIA and the United Nations Spe-

cial Commission, or Unscom, which is responsible for the inspection teams, said they had no immediate comment on the book. Galley proofs were obtained on condition that the source not be iden-

The State Department dismissed Mr. Ritter's criticism of Ms. Albright. Decisions on Unscom were made by

its chairman, Richard Butler," said James Foley, a department spokesman. 'Any advice we gave him was based on issues of timing and tactics to maintain sup-port for Unscom in the UN Security

Mr. Ritter provides a detailed description of his work for the United Nations. which began in 1991 and ended last summer when he resigned in part to protest what he described as the administration's meddling in the work of the inspectors.

In repeated interviews since his resig-nation, Mr. Ritter has alleged that the administration hindered the arms inspections out of fear of direct confronnations with Iraq.

Mr. Ritter says in the book that the CIA became actively involved in in-

spections in 1992, the year after the United Nations began inspections in search for evidence of chemical and biological weapons in Iraq.

In the book, he says he and a senior CIA official, identified by a pseudonym, Moe Dobbs, worked together "to plan the operational and intelligence support for the largest and most complex inspections ever undertaken by Un-

Mr. Ritter said that beginning in the spring of 1992, "Dobbs and his men provided seasoned personnel who could operate vehicles, organize logistics, run communications - simply put, the kind of people you want around you in a difficult situation."

The agency played its largest role, he said, in an inspection in June 1996, when nine "CIA paramilitary covert operat-ors" were placed on a team seeking to inspect compounds maintained by Mr. Hussein's elite Republican Guards.

The Iraqis tried to block the inspection, resulting in a standoff that lasted several days and brought swift condemnation of Iraq by the United Nations Security Council.

That same month, Iraqi dissidents staged a coup attempt against Mr. Hussein. The attempt failed, and Mr. Ritter said he later became suspicious of its timing and of the presence of an inspection team that included several CIA

There was no proof of Dobbs's involvement," Mr. Ritter said, "but there was a strong set of coincidences. The inspection was directed almost exclusively at Special Republican Guard sites; the coup plotters were from some of the same units we were trying to inspect."

The Defense Department, which demanded last week that Mr. Ritter turn over a copy of the book for a security review before publication, would not comment on whether it was considering legal action to block distribution.

■ U.S. Jets Strike Iraqi Bunker

U.S. F-15 fighter jets dropped pre-cision-guided bombs Tuesday on an traqi command and control bunker in the northern no-flight zone in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire, the U.S. military said, Agence France-Presse report-ed from Washington.

Europe Air Traffic Warned of Delays

BRUSSELS - The European air traffic control group Eurocontrol warned on Tuesday of possible delays in flights in Europe from-Thursday because of a reorganization of routes over France and Switzerland.

The changes are part of a plan to improve services by increasing the capacity of some routes, Eurocon-

trol said. But to implement the changes, flights will have to be reduced for

'a limited period as from February "As a result, delays can be expected.'

Eurocontrol said the changes were deliberately being made in February, when seasonal traffic is at its lowest.

Industry sources said airlines had been advised to expect disruption to between 30 percent and 50 percent of flights in northern French, Swiss, Belgian, Dutch and some British airspace between Thursday and

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TRAVEL UPDATE

Cyprus to Open Pretoria Embassy NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus will open an embassy in Pretoria, the capital of South Africa, within the next few weeks to expand the representation provided by its Johannesburg consulate, officials said Tuesday.

Cyprus's ambassador will arrive in March after Nicosia gets approval from Pretoria, said Alecos Shambos, director general of the Cypriot Foreign Ministry.

The decision to open the embassy was made while President Glavkos Klerides was attending the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Durban, South Africa, in November, Mr. Shambos

About 30,000 Greek Cypriots live in South Africa, and the country has 150,000 Greek-speakers, he said. With the embassy in Pretoria, Cyprus will have 27 embassies around the world. Nicosia plans to open a 28th embassy this year in Helsinki.

Monument Reopens in Washington

WASHINGTON (NYT) — Hundreds of people are again visiting the Washington Monument, which had been closed since Oct. 5 while a scaffold was constructed to permit workers to inspect and repair its marble skin.

"Even in the middle of the renovation, it is nice that they let people in, "said Shoshana Deitch, a tourist from Jerusalem. Ms. Deitch and the others who stood in line in a chilly wind for 25 minutes were lucky that the monument was open at all, because repairs are a bit behind schedule.

The park service will shut the monument again this year to begin the last phase of the work: renovations of the observation deck and an area with a souvenir shop just below

WEATHER North America

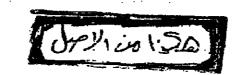
Brisk and chilly in New
England Thursday, but an
erea of snow over the Ohio
Valley will move to New
across all of England into
England by Saturday. Dry
and warm with plenty of
sunshine in the Southwest,
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THE AMERICAS

Bush Gets Early Nod From Governors

WASHINGTON - At least half of ready to endorse the presidential nom-ination of George W. Bush and, in a preemptive show of force, may declare themselves in favor of the Texas gov-

emor as early as this week. The unusual mobilization for an undeclared, nonincumbent White House hopeful emerged from a flurry of conversations among the 31 Republican state executives attending the midwinter meeting in Washington of the National Governors' Association.

Three early Bush enthusiasts - John Engler of Michigan, Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts and Marc Racicot of Montana — bégan sounding out col-leagues soon after they arrived Saturday. When they found that more than half of those they contacted were ready to support Mr. Bush, they decided to step up their efforts to reach the rest and convert informal pledges into some kind of state-

ment.
"If 15 or 20 of us sign on, it would show he has a significant base of sup-port," Mr. Racicot said. "It could help him make up his mind to run."

Support for Mr. Bush among the Republican governors comes as no great surprise, for his brother Jeb, the new governor of Florida, and the chief executives of the neighboring states Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico are

the imagination.

Wild About Hillary, for Now

* WASHINGTON — Privately, at least, many journalists do

not really believe that Hillary Rodham Clinton will run for the

Senate in New York. This is, after all, a first lady so un-

comfortable with reporters that she banned them from her

plane on domestic trips during her husband's first term. To think of her going toe-to-toe with the tabloids, or visiting Poughkeepsie and Syracuse, or patiently answering questions

about Whitewater or her husband's philandering, is to stretch

This Time, Blacks Like Daley

to his father, the former president.

Mr. Bush has said he will defer a WASHINGTON — At least half of decision on whether to run until the control political and fund-raising op-the nation's Republican governors are Texas Legislature completes its current erations in their states, would be Mr.

session, this spring.
Early polls put Mr. Bush and Elizabeth Hanford Dole, the former president of the American Red Cross, at the top of the prospective Republican field.

At least half of the 31 Republican state leaders voiced their support.

Mr. Bush has said that family considerations could preclude a campaign in 2000, but his wife and teenage twin daughters seem likely to support a run. His staff members are saying they expect him to become a candidate.

For months, Mr. Bush has been actively preparing for a presidential campaign. He has met with domestic and oreign policy experts, prospective fundraisers and political operatives on a reg-

ular basis in Austin.

Delegations of state legislators — in the past month, contingents from California, Iowa and South Carolina — and party officials have been urging Mr. Bush to become a candidate. Such support would give Mr. Bush significant speeches and is regarded by help in Republican primaries next year, particularly against a candidate such as idential ambitions of his own.

POLITICAL NOTES

By Dan Balz and David S. Broder part of the group. Others have close ties to his father, the former president.

Steve Forbes, the publishing magnate with a vast personal wealth to throw at a campaign. Republican governors, who Bush's most important allies.

Mr. Racicot, who said he had begun urging Mr. Bush to run for president at least a year before the Texan's landslide re-election victory in November, said a principal reason so many governors are prepared to support him is his "demonstrated ability to win? all kinds of

"He's strong, he's sensitive to people; he's tough, he's durable," Mr. Racicot said, 'and there's a genuine sense of liking him."

The offers of support spanned the ideological range from moderates such as Mr. Cellucci and John Rowland of Connecticut to conservatives such as Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho and Mike Leavin of Utah.

People familiar with the canvassing said it confirmed that two governors -Don Sundquist of Tennessee and Mike Huckabee of Arkansas -- support Lamar Alexander, a former governor of Tennessee. Two others, Kirk Fordice of Mississippi and Mike Johanns of Nebraska, are likely to back Dan Quayle, the former vice president

Governor George Pataki of New York has started a series of out-of-state speeches and is regarded by the Bush backers as someone who may have pres-

appeared poised to win a landslide re-election victory on

Tuesday with a big share of the black vote. Mr. Daley, who

won election in 1989 in the most racially polarized vote in the

city's history, is winning more black votes than his black

challenger, Representative Bobby Rush, according to polls.

total vote. In his first successful bid for mayor, he won less

"He's worked assiduously to court the black community.

said Don Rose, a liberal political consultant here who has



John William King, right, being escorted from the would expose Mr. King, a Jasper County Courthouse. He is charged with cap-white supremacist, to the ital murder in the dragging death of James Byrd Jr. death penalty.

Grisly Testimony On Racist Killing

Doctor Says Victim Suffered Greatly

The Associated Press JASPER, Texas Dragged along a bumpy road conscious and was attempting by a chain around his ankles, James Byrd Jr. desperately shifted from side to side to Brown, who explained how ease the excruciating pain and Mr. Byrd's heels and limbs was alive until his head was were ground to the bone. torn off by a concrete drainage duct, a pathologist test-

Dr. Tommy Brown was the last of 43 prosecution witnesses to take the stand at the trial of John William King, 24, one of three white men accused of killing the 49-year-old Mr. Byrd last June because he was black.

The defense also rested Monday, after presenting just three witnesses. Closing arguments were scheduled to begin Tuesday.

Prosecutors need to prove that Mr. Byrd was alive when he was dragged in order to prove charges of kidnapping and murder, which together

vices, which warn of the

cite evidence that moderate

meter) journey, when his head, shoulder and right arm were torn off by a concrete drain pipe at the foot of a driveway.

The pathologist said there was no way to determine whether Mr. Byrd was still

"It's my opinion, while be-

ing dragged, Mr. Byrd was

to relieve the pain and injuries

he was receiving." said Dr.

"I think we all know how

much brush-burn abrasions,

like if you fall and slide on a

surface with your hands -

that's very painful - and this

would have been very painful

to him." Dr. Brown testified.

"He would probably swap

one portion of his body for the

other, trying to get relief as he

Prosecutors say Mr. Byrd. was walking home from a party early June 7 when he got

a ride from the three white men

and ended up scuffling with them. Dr. Brown said Mr.

Byrd's fatal injury occurred

about two-thirds of the way

into the three-mile (five-kilo-

was being dragged."

conscious when his head hit Mr. King's father and a female relative of Mr. Byrd left people to consult dietary the courtroom even before the guidelines published by the

pathologist testified. Some of Departments of Agriculture Mr. Byrd's family members who stayed cried.

Hours later, the defense rested after calling three witnesses who testified for less than an hour, Mr. King did not take the stand.

New Wine Labels Irk Senator

By David Stout New York Times Service

Those polls indicate Mr. Daley could win 70 percent of the WASHINGTON — In a nove that may foreshadow a bitter struggle over government policies on alcohol, Senator Strom Thurmond has introduced legislation that would bar new "health mes-

worked against Mr. Daley in earlier campaigns. "And he's done a lot of it with classic Chicago political wiles — deals,

and the playful "E.T." are the things Amer-

 Kicking off one of the strictest antidrunken driving campaigns, New York City police seized the cars of three drivers Monday. Civil libertarians have promised legal challenges to the new policy.

sages" on wine bottles.

Mr. Thurmond, a Republican from South Carolina,

said he wanted to reverse the and Health and Human Ser-"irresponsible" action of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco dangers of alcohol but also and Firearms, which on Feb. 5 approved two bottle labels drinking may lower the risk of that encourage consumers to heart disease. learn about the benefits of drinking wine. The legislation he pro-

posed Monday also would transfer labeling authority to the Department of Health and Human Services and would raise taxes on wine.

A trade association said the wine industry, which asked for the new labels, would fight the proposals. We can argue the merits if it comes to that," said John

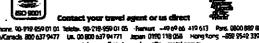
De Luca, president of the Wine Institute. The new labels invite

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A Passion for Perfection



But no one wants to spoil the fun, so the press has gone wild. Time and Newsweek joined the party with big cover stories Monday. "Not since Colin Powell's book tour in 1995 has so **Away From Politics** much hype surrounded a candidacy that is likely never to be announced," writes John Fund of the Wall Street Journal. Cable TV shows that had gorged themselves on Monica

 Imposing the nation's highest state taxes on tobacco has brought just what supporters Lewinsky are suddenly buzzing about Senator Hillary. "I sought, a state report found — a sharp decline in hink that everyone is enjoying keeping this story line going, " leorge Stephanopoulos said on ABC. CNN's Wolf Blitzer cigarettes sold in Alaska last year.

than 7 percent of the black vote.

jobs. He's made terrific allies."

Aid "some serious people out there" want her to be Vice President Al Gore's running mate in 2000. (WP) • More than 10,000 people packed a California shopping mall and nearby streets to protest the hanging of a Ho Chi Minh portrait and communist flag inside a video store. The crowd, mostly waving yellow and red flags of the former South Vietnam, remained peace-CHICAGO - In an astonishing turnabout from the bitter ful, and no arrests were reported. racial divisions here a decade ago, Mayor Richard Daley

• The rise of video games and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the somber Vietnam Memorial icans identify with the 1980s, based on public balloting for postage stamps commemorating

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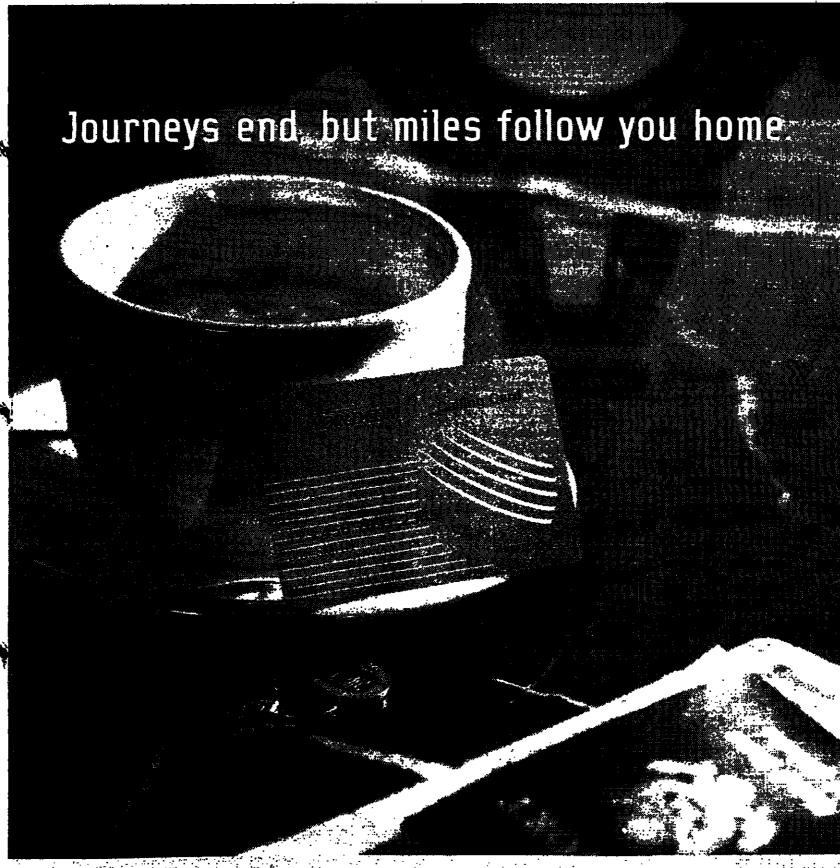
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Boycotted Conference Opens

Western Nations Sit Out as Interpol Holds Heroin Meeting in Burma

Agence France-Presse RANGOON - Interpol opened its fourth international heroin conference here Tuesday, despite a boycott by ister, said at the opening ceremony. Western critics who assailed the de-

world's largest sources of opium. many countries in the Officials from both Burma and In-including Myanmar. terpol, the international police organization, criticized nations including the United States, Britain and France, who military regime and an anti-drug policy that they consider too lax.

As two of the largest markets for heroin in the world, the United States

Estrada Says Rebels

Imperil Peace Talks

munist rebels following a series of ab-ductions launched by the insurgents. Mr. Estrada said the government

has been faithfully executing confi-

dence-building measures to end the

30-year Marxist rebellion, and he ac-

The rebel actions are "simply un-acceptable," he declared.

Mr. Estrada was referring in par-ticular to the seizure of Brigadier Gen-

eral Victor Obillo and an aide, Captain

Eduardo Montealto, in Davao and the

abduction Sunday of a police major on the island of Luzon. (AP)

Anwar Lays Beating

former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, testified

Tuesday that junior policemen di-

vulged to him that one of the men who

beat him in his cell on the night of his

arrest last autumn was Malaysia's po-

lice chief, Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor.

in jail confirmed that one of his as-

sailants was the head of police, Mr.

Anwar said to an inquiry committee.

Several policemen who visited him

To the Police Chief

cused the rebels of insincerity.

BRIEFLY

MANILA — President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines called Tuesday for a review of negotiations with Computations with

KUALA LUMPUR — The jailed In Election Protests

work with the rest of the international community in every way possible," Tin Hlaing, the Burmese home affairs min-

Western critics who assailed the decision to hold it in Burma, one of the narcotics trade which threatens to affect many countries in the developing world,

Nations that refused to attend said their decision was based on disquiet over Burma's anti-drugs policy, allegations stayed away to avoid endorsing Burma's of human rights violations there and suppression of the opposition movement of the Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu

Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Britain bear special responsibility to and Belgium were also among boycot-

Abdul Rahim Noor resigned as in-

SEOUL -- North Korea renewed its demand Tuesday for the return of

20 men convicted of spying in South

Korea, saying that their repatriation

Korea granted amnesty to 1,508 pris-

oners, including 17 convicted as North

Korean spies, effective Thursday, the first anniversary of President Kim Dae

nouncement is fortunate." the North

Korean Red Cross Society said in a letter to its South Korean counter-

2 Die in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bandladesh- Two

people were killed and at least 100

injured Tuesday in bombings and clashes in Bangladesh as opposition

parties enforced a nationwide strike to block municipal elections, the police

Dhaka and a soldier was killed in

One man was killed by a bomb in

Though belated, we think the an-

Jung's inauguration.

and others said.

Chittagong in crossfire.

The demand came a day after South

would lead to improved relations.

spector-general of the police last

Paul Higdon, director of Interpol's criminal intelligence unit, said he regretted the boycott.

"I for one, however, regret that a political situation which is viewed by many as a serious problem has held hostage the universally recognized prob-lem of drug abuse." Mr. Higdon said. "I feel there is more to gain through dialogue than through boycott."

Experts say Burma and Afghanistan are the world's two largest opium suppliers, and critics say the government here has not done enough to crack down on narcotics.

The ruling generals reject the claims. saying Burma does its best to fight "evil" drugs but is handicapped by a lack of western investment.

Everybody in the world, especially those that are involved in conquering narcotics, understands that one country alone.cannot fight and be successful." said Burma's top anti-drug official, Col-

Everyone has to join hands to fight this drugs menace.

The three-day conference, which attracted 70 delegates from police organizations and nongovernmental groups, will focus on drug trafficking routes, criminal groups and precursor chemicals used to make heroin.

A wave of protest greeted the decision to hold it in Rangoon, home to drug lords such as Khun Sa, the former opium king, who have made immunity deals with the

The boycott was a disappointment for the government, keen for vindication of its 15-year anti-drugs plan and bid to shed its image as a "narco-dictatorship" shored up by the spoils of drug cul-

Colonel Kyaw Thein said the boycott should be seriously examined, claiming it was motivated by political spite.

Diplomats in Rangoon privately ques-tioned Interpol's decision to hold the conference in the city despite obvious political implications. Australia, however, refused to join the

boycon, sending police officers from Сапьетта.

Thailand, Burma and Laos, which all have territory in the so-called Golden Triangle opium-producing region, are represented, as is China. The inclusion of those nation is seen as a boost for international anti-drugs efforts that are concentrating on blocking trafficking routes out of Burma and Laos through China's southern Yunnan province.



Paul Higdon, the Interpol director, second from left, shaking hands Tuesday with Interior Minister Colonel Tin Hlaing as Burma's head of police, Major General Soe Win, left, and Foreign Minister U Win Aung look on.

5 Killed in Indonesia Religious Riots The vote is expected to be the faired in the four decades.

JAKARTA — At least five people were killed and 12 injured when Indonesian police officers fired on brawling Christians and Muslims on the eastern Spice Island of Ambon, the official

news agency Antara reported Tuesday. The bloodshed came as thousands tried to flee the island, where at least 160 people died last month in sectarian clashes that have subsided and enupted sporadically ever since.

In Jakarta, a senior military officer warned that chronic civil unrest across Indonesia was severely straining the armed forces. ·

In the latest violence, several bombs exploded early Tuesday in houses in Ambon, the center of religious fighting that has killed 129 people so far this year. In recent weeks, gangs have assembled crude bombs to use in brawls.

Panicked neighbors blocked roads in two neighborhoods, gang fights broke out and security forces fired into the air to disperse the crowds. Smoke billowed

from at least 20 buildings.
Two people were killed, said Lieu-

tenant Colonel Aris Martanto, the regional military chief. Citing witnesses, the Antara news agency put the death toll at five. At least one of the victims died at a hospital of wounds, a paramedic said.

A chief adviser to the military commander, General Wiranto, said the halfmillion-member armed forces, which includes the police, needed more cooperation from civilians to restore order. General Wiranto, like many Indonesians, uses only one name.

"It's not completely in the hands of the military," Major General Agus Wirahadikusumah stressed at a busines forum here. "If we look at the morale of the nation, we are very afraid"

If every incident of violence is left to the military to solve the results will be difficult, he added.

In past months, many rioters have concentrated their anger on the military, which has been tainted by human rights

parliamentary elections on June 7.

abuses and its links to the old regime. However, the armed forces remains the most unified institution in turbulent Indonesia and have vowed to safeguard

in more than four decades.

Military commanders will retain a political role after the vote, but they have agreed to cut their quota of appointed seats in half, to 38.

Ambon is the capital of Malukin Province, site of the worst rioting since the downfall of President Suharto. The area is 2,250 kilometers (1,400 miles) east of Jakarta and was known as the Spice Islands in colonial times. (Reusers, AP)

■ Australian Wary on Indonesia Indonesia should learn a lesson from

its 23-year-long occupation of East Timor if it wants to keep its other provinces from seeking more autonomy, the Australian foreign minister said in Singapore on Tuesday.

Alexander Downer, who was speaking at the Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies, was commenting on the possibility of Irian Jaya, Aceh or other provinces asking for more autonomy once Indonesia has relaxed its attitude toward rebellious East Timor.

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EUROPE .

Greece Accuses Turkey Of 'Defamatory' Acts

Prime Minister Trades Charges on Ocalan

ATHENS — Prime Minister Costas Simitis of Greece accused Turkey on Tuesday of launching a "defamatory campaign" against his country but said that Turkey would not be allowed to Beter Greece from its pro-European

He was responding to demands by turkey that Greece be classified as an outlaw state" for harboring the Knrdh rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan. Turkish officials have also accused Greece of supporting Kurdish guerrillas.

The prime minister, under pressure for his role in what is viewed as a national humiliation, sought to divert attention from Greece's role in Mr. Ocalan's capture by Turkey to Ankara's record toward its Kurdish minority. Turkey is and will be answerable to

the international community for its vi-

He also sought to convince financial markets that the Ocalan affair would not disrupt Greece's march toward Economic and Monetary Union in the European

'No one will stop our course,' he said. 'No one can destabilize the country."

eign policy planners Tuesday against a backdrop of Turkish fury over the

President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey accused Greece on Monday of being an outlaw state for harboring Mr. Ocalan, who was captured by Turkey last week after he spent 12 days under Greek diplomatic protection in Kenya. Mr. Ocalan and his Kurdish Workers

Party are viewed as terrorists in Turkey. But many Greeks see their struggle against Turkey as similar to Greece's own a century ago.

Turkey has also repeated accusations

that Greece provided more that moral support for the Kurdish cause, with the Turkish daily newspaper Hurriyet re-porting that Mr. Ocalan had told his captors that Greece provided his rebels with rockets and other arms. Greece has long dismissed such ac-

cusations. On Sunday, a government spokesman, Dimitris Reppas, called them "fabrications." Turkey "is building up an outside

enemy in order to divert international attention away from the basic problem, which is recognition and respect for the rights of the Kurdish people," he said.



A Georgian Kurd wearing a portrait of Mr. Ocalan marching on the Turkish Embassy in Tbilisi to demand a fair trial for the rebel leader.

TURKEY: Ocalan, Kurd Rebel Chief, Is Charged With Treason and Faces Death Penalty

Continued from Page 1

Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhumane or Degrading Treatment of Prisoners said investigators had found interrogation rooms "of a highly in-timidating nature" in some Turkish police stations, and it asserted that such rooms "have no place in a modern po-

The committee "can concur with the

By Steven Erlanger

New York Times Service

BELGRADE — The official Serbian media played

Rather than facing the choice of submission to

While Mr. Milosevic's fundamental decisions were

"He will be seen as having outwitted Washington for

has shown himself at least as reasonable as the Kosovar

He has not had to adjust his opening position that he

the ambiguous outcome of the Kosovo peace talks at Rambouillet on Tuesday as a considerable success for

Belgrade, and few diplomats here argued the point.

Given the deep fractures within the

outcome for himself and his military.

Albanians about a political settlement.

tense Western pressure.

direction," the report said. "However, reaching the desired goal will require a sustained effort by all

parties concerned." The report emphasized that the committee, "retains serious misgivings about the fact that persons suspected of State Security Court offenses are still denied the right of access to a lawyer during the first four days of police custody."

military officer, and some human rights groups have described them as neither impartial nor fair. Turkish officials insist that they are and say that Mr. Ocalan's trial will be above legal reproach.

■ Response to Kurdish Violence

European law enforcement officials met Tuesday to try to coordinate the fight against violent protests by militant Mr. Ocalan is to be tried before such a Kurds, set off by the capture of Mr. view advanced by the Turkish author-security court. These tribunals are Ocalan, The Associated Press reported ities that Turkey is moving in the right presided over by panels that include a from Bonn.

Germany, the focus of the violence last week, called the talks after criticizing foreign intelligence agencies for leaving it in the dark about the arrest. In the worst violence, three Kurds

were killed last Wednesday when they tried to storm the Israeli Consulate in Berlin.

Interior Minister Otto Schily said that the ministers would discuss "improved cooperation within the EU" and with other countries, apparently including

Czechs Arrest 6 Men Wearing Nazi Badges Serbian View: Milosevic Is Winner at Rambouillet

judge in March.

PRAGUE - Six men armed with World War II German weapons and dressed in Wehrmacht uniforms decorated with Nazi badges have been arrested in a military area in western Bohemia, police said Tuesday.

KIEV - President Leonid Kuchma

"President Kuchma expects U.S.

Mr. Lazarenko, who was prime

The former prime minister has been

Mr. Martynenko said Mr. Kuchma

land, has said the new move was a

Mr. Lazarenko was arrested by

to enter the country on a Panamanian

to eliminate him as a political rival.

political action staged by Mr. Kuchma next is anything but clear.

Swiss police last December as he tried attempt to enter the United States to

passport. He was later indicted on entry or should be expelled. That promoney-laundering charges and recess is supposed to be rapid but could leased on bail of \$3 million. He is easily be tied up by legal challenges.

scheduled to be questioned by a Swiss particularly if he decides to seek

BRIEFLY

an in Rokycany, 100 kilometers (62 miles) southeast of Prague, said the six men, between the case of 20 miles Jana Tomkova, a police spokeswommen, between the ages of 20 and 23, Floating Over Chad were arrested Sunday night as they drove away from the area, which belongs to the

Czech Army.
She said the group, led by a professional Czech soldier, was doing ex- ward a target of central India by the ercises in the area over the weekend. They were detained after police spotted said Tuesday. their car on a restricted-entry road.

Miss Tomkova said the six, who named themselves Sturmpionier Battalion 43, were armed with functioning World War II German weapons, including a machine gun (AP)

Spain Is Cautious Âfter ETA Report

MADRID - Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja on Tuesday expressed caution after reports that the Basque separatist group ETA was planning to definical Research said Tuesday. The number

Mr. Mayor Oreja said he hoped the report was genuine but added that for the moment it was a "a theory and the government does not work on theories.

■ Immigration Interview

Times reported from Moscow:

Michael Wines of the New York

Mr. Lazarenko held an expired dip-

lomatic passport and a valid tourist

visa at the time of his arrest, said Russell Bergeron, the chief spokes-man for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. But Mr. Laz-

arenko was detained after immigra-

tion officials interviewed him and

concluded that he had not come to the

country merely for a casual visit, as

Mr. Lazarenko left Ukraine on

Wednesday. He told Parliament in a

written statement last week that he

was going to Greece for treatment of a stress-related heart ailment.

arenko arrived in New York on a flight

from Greece or from some other coun-

try. His family apparently was not

denies, he made millions of dollars in

the past decade through schemes rang-

ing from the sale of overpriced goods

to the government to a complex deal

involving the granting of monopoly

What will happen to Mr. Lazarenko

American immigration officials are

reviewing the circumstances of his

determine whether he is entitled to

asylum in the United States.

franchises to natural-gas suppliers.

By many accounts, all of which he

traveling with him.

It was not clear whether Mr. Laz-

the rules on visitor visas require.

The private television station Tele 5 on Monday cited unnamed sources close to ETA as saying the organization will announce a definitive cease-fire in May as a development of the "indefinite truce" it has observed since Sept. 18.

LONDON --- The British pair bidding to fly around the world nonstop in a balloon were speeding over Chad toweekend, their London headquart

If they remain on course, they will be able to avoid Iraq, where U.S. and British warplanes regularly bomb Iraqi missile sites.

At 1130 GMT, Andy Elson and Colin Prescot's Cable & Wireless balloon had just entered Chadian airspace at a height of 25,000 feet (7,620 meters). (AFP)

For the Record

A flu epidemic has kept more than 2.3 million people bedridden in France, the National Institute for Health and Meditively end its 30-year campaign for an of new cases each week is 988 per independent Basque homeland in May. 100,000 inhabitants. (AFP)

SNOW: Avalanche Smashes Austrian Town

Continued from Page 1

he said, people have a better chance of

finding air pockets.

Ludwig Walter, a ski instructor, told the Austrian news agency APA that the died later.
mass of snow that piled down a mountainside into the village was 5 meters (17 Tyrol and thousands of others in Vorfeet) high at points. "About 300 people ariberg, the province to the west of Tyrare looking for builed people in the mass of

because no one has been able to reach the town since another avalanche blocked the main road leading there and bad weather prevented helicopters from flying, Major Wartok said.

the army rescue operation, said authorities would review the situation early Wednesday morning.

television from the army base at Landeck, at the end of the long valley lead-

ing up to Galtuer. A security official in Innsbruck said some of those rescued in Galtuer were in critical condition.

The village, which has been cut off for were helping search for survivors.

The Austrian chancellor, Viktor Klima, was to fly to Innsbruck on Wednesday morning to talk to officials and possibly to fly into the village itself, his spokesman told APA.

Heavy snowfalls have set off a series of avalanches in the Alps in recent weeks, claiming lives in France, Switzerland and Austria. Snowstorms snarled traffic and halted trains Tuesday in Germany.

In northwestern Italy earlier Tuesday, a mass of snow and debris tore through the village of Morgex, killing a 52-yearold woman in her home and injuring several other people. Many of the town's 40 residents said they were sleeping when they heard the snow come roaring

Rescue crews said they did not think anyone else was trapped in the snow in Morgex, near Italy's northwestern bor-

APA also reported that a man and a

woman were killed Monday when an

avalanche enveloped a mountain res-

taurant near Gargellen, Austria. The man was still alive when found, but weather conditions prevented an emergency flight to a hospital, and he

Some 20,000 tourists were stranded in Tyrol and thousands of others in Vor-

of snow," he said.

Galtner had to rely on local rescuers

Helicopters flying people out for hospitalization also flew in food and tons of mail, which has been piling up because entire valleys are cut off. The snow chaos extended far beyond

the Alps. Two Czech tourists were missing and feared dead after they were Thomas Schoenherr, a spokesman for caught in an avalanche Sunday in the Carpathian Mountains in Romania, 325 kilometers west of Bucharest.

And one of the heaviest snowfalls of "We will meet again at 6 A.M. to the century paralyzed travel in western assess what we can do," he told Austrian and southern Germany, stranding tens of thousands of passengers at train stations and freezing traffic on the autobahns.

Aachen, on the border with Belgium and the Netherlands, was cut off for hours because of 25 centimeters (10 inches) of snow that fell overnight. Me-

teorologists called it the area's deepest three days, was reported to have one snow of the century. doctor and five police officers. Villagers Along the swollen Rhine River,

meanwhile, the first sandbags were being laid in Cologne as a precaution against flooding.

The water was still more than a meter below flood level but was rising, pushed by melting snow and rain from the Swiss

headwaters. Ship traffic was suspended on large stretches of the river. Swiss officials, meanwhile, said they found the body of a third person who had died in an avaianche in Evolene,

Switzerland, on Sunday. Seven people, most of them French tourists, were still missing Tuesday evening.

They said that in the Swiss canton of

Valais, avalanches were thundering into mountain valleys every 20 minutes, helped by fresh snow and winds gusting up to 150 kilometers per hour (93

In Germany, about 80 trains were canceled after the heavy snow and strong winds tore down overhead lines and tossed trees onto the tracks, a railroad

include leavening Western forces with lots of Rusethnic Albanian delegation, which required all of Secretary of State Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic, a recent, Madeleine Albright's attention, President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia has had to more liberal addition to the Belgrade government, said

to someone from abroad helping us to implement the deal in Kosovo and helping to disarm" the Kosovo

will not allow foreign troops into Kosovo, as an

Already, the Serbian president, Milan Milutinovic,

integral part of Serbia, even though he is expected to do

has said that the Serbs are ready to discuss "an

international presence in Kosovo'' to implement the

political arrangements when the negotiators reconvene

on March 15, and other Serbs have floated ideas that

American dictates or getting bombed, Mr. Milosevic independence. now has another three weeks to think through the best Mr. Milosevic and his media are already emphasizing that Kosovo will remain within Serbia and that only postponed, one senior Western diplomat said, the ethnic Albanians failed to get any mention of a referendum on Kosovo's future status after the threenow, and that will help him at home." Mr. Milosevic

Mr. Milosevic will also be able to make the point that the Kosovo Liberation Army, which the Serbs have been

year interim period.

fighting, may be rather more stubborn and committed to

Mr. Milosevic thus reinforces his reputation as a shrewd tactician and tweaker of superpower pretensions. He also avoids an early strain within his own government — especially with the ultranationalist Radical Party leader, Voijislav Seselj, who appeals to those who consider Kosovo the beating heart of the

independence than Washington appeared to assume.

Serbs' nationhood. Many ordinary Serbs, even those who are sophisticated in Western ways and culture, feel some "shame;" as one Serb official said, asking for an-

onymity, "that it will be in our generation that we will But what most concerns Western diplomats here -

and the foreign ministers in Rambouillet - is how hard Liberation Army, the insurgency fighting for Kosovo's Mr. Milosevic will push the war against the rebels in Kosovo over the next three weeks. Already, Serbian military and police movements tied to the Rambouillet talks have upset Western officials. It is this three-week limbo between peace con-

ferences - with the threat of allied air strikes lifted but no armed peacekeepers on the ground - that one Western diplomat here called "the most interesting test yet of whether Milosevic wants to confront the West or find a way to make himself a partner."

NATO's Clark Prepares New Mission

. After Bosnia, Commander Readies a Force to Keep Peace in Kosovo

By Craig R. Whitney New York Times Service

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Age of the second

alliance had begun the biggest military operation of its 50-year history, but it was not the war with invading Soviet forces that NATO was designed to deter

It was a peacekeeping mission in Bos-

General Clark, 54, is a West Point graduate — first in his class — and a Rhodes scholar from Arkansas like his commander in chief, President Bill Clinton.

He could soon be presiding over an-Balkans, in the overwhelmingly ethnically Albanian Serbian province of Kosovo.

On Monday, the general flew to a French air base near Rambouillet where a conditional accord on a settlement between the ethnic Albanians and the Yugoslav government was reached Tuesday - to explain to both sides what the peacekeepers would do.

A few weeks ago, he was called on to Yugoslavia. General Clark told Mr. Milosevic of lack of progress by the Muslim, Serbian, organization could do to bis military. installations, using the more than 400 aircraft it has ready to strike, if he refuses to accept an accord.

He was prepared to explain to the Kosovo Albanians that if they agree to settle for autonomy instead of the independence for which the rebels have been fighting, 28,000 peacekeepers will try to make sure they get the chance to make autonomy work without fear of Serbian attack.

General Clark knows something about tense military-civilian standoffs, going back to the days of his youth in Little Rock, Arkansas, when the Eisenhower administration sent in the National Guard to enforce desegregation. He honed his own persuasive powers at Oxford University, where he studied politics, economics and philosophy, and at the National War College.

The general has the broad shoulders of the swimmer that he is, and he stands out in a crowd because of his intense energy. expressed in a deep commanding voice man crisis: By coupling the threat of with only the trace of an Arkansas accent. military action with a negotiating dead-

diplomat who worked closely with General Clark to produce the accord on placed persons to return to their homes. PARIS — General Wesley Clark became NATO's supreme allied comryander in Europe in 1997, well after the
and charm masked, but only slightly, his extraordinary intensity."

General Clark wrote the part of the Bosnia peace agreement that provided for the peacekeeping force there. It gives the commander "authority, without interference or permission of any party, to do all that the commander judges necessary and proper, including the use of military force. Mr. Holbrooke later criticized U.S.

military leaders in Bosnia for not using that authority to protect civilians and to other NATO peacekeeping mission in the arrest people indicted for war crimes by the international tribunal in The Hague. Whether by coincidence or not, NATO arrested the first such suspect just as General Clark took over as supreme allied commander in 1997. But the biggest names on The Hague's mostwanted list, the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko

lack of progress by the Muslim, Serbian, "It's a different country, it's a different Bosnia while also sending 6,000 and and Croat communities in Bosnia in problem and there will be different 8,000 troops, respectively, to Kosovo.

Miadic, are still at large.

As Richard Holbrooke, the American carrying out the peace accord's provisions for allowing refugees and dis-According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, only 550,000 of the 2 million people driven out of their

homes by ethnic cleansing and fighting went back in the first three years of peace in Bosnia. Of the 1 million who would be outnumbered by other ethnic groups if they returned, only 60,000 had gone home so far, according to the agency.
Flying into the divided Bosnian city of Mostar recently, General Clark urged

military commanders and civilian officials there to work as fast as possible to make sure that as many of the expected 50,000 returning refugees in the area could go back to their homes this year. "People whose lives have been dis-

rupted for seven years deserve to finally get to go home," he said. "Our goal is that after this year, it will no longer be troops for that." possible for those who support ethnically separate communities to believe that main in Bosnia next year is uncertain. they can succeed."

To local reporters in Mostar, he said that any new peacekeeping operation in already down from about 20,000 three General Clark warns that time is run-ning out in Bosnia. With the clock tick-in Bosnia this year. "We're going to hard-pressed to maintain the several keep doing our job in Bosnia," he said. thousand troops they each now have in



General Clark may lead the NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo Province.

But how many peacekeepers will re-The United States is reducing its contingent to 6,200 from 6,900, which is

"It's the worst dilemma of modern di-

plomacy: if you intervene too soon, you lack leverage; if you wait too long, the bloodshed and the international outcry

So far, the parties involved clearly

were not eager for a deal. The guerrillas

in the Kosovo Liberation Army appar-

ently remained convinced that they had

more to gain by fighting on for inde-

KOSOVO: Ethnic Albanians Agree Tentatively to Autonomy Deal

Continued from Page 1

the likelihood that Albanian nationalism will become more virulent, threatening to spread tensions and instability through the Balkans. Mr. Milosevic stands to enjoy a strengthened position in Serbia as a result of the stand-off.

From that perspective, the Rambouillet talks may have backfired on the West, diplomats said, by sapping the diplomatic credibility of the Clinton administration. Mrs. Albright very visibly took charge of the negotiations — and assumed the political risks of success or failure — as the leader of the Contact Group that includes the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy. It was the United States that insisted

on the negotiating approach modeled on

line, Washington hoped to avoid the Clinton administration official said that pitfalls of protracted diplomacy that en- the deadlock confirmed the grim adage abled Mr. Milosevic to cause so much that peacemaking is rarely possible bebloodshed in Bosnia until Serbian forces fore fighting has exhausted both sides. were bombed by NATO. In the Kosovo crisis, U.S. policy-

makers and NATO officials initially proposed air strikes against Serbian targets before convening a peace conference, are horrendous," he said.

arguing that Mr. Milosevic would never

So far, the parties inve make concessions until Western military determination had been demonstrated. European leaders insisted on taking a

less forceful approach, reserving military pressure until initial negotiations — a situation that Western officials had expected to arise because of Serbian obstinacy. That plan was derailed when the Kosovars balked, at least temporarily, and U.S. efforts will now the Dayton talks that resolved the Boshave problems maintaining a consensus on air strikes.

pendence than by accepting a compro-If the guerrilla leaders lay down their down at 6:30 A.M. arms, as required in the Rambouillet plan, they might well lose the political prominence that they could expect if

circumstances permit them to lead a der with France and Switzerland. protracted military struggle against the

Hezbollah Kills 3 Israelis **Infiltrating** Into Lebanon

The Associated Press

RASHAYA, Lebanon — Hezbollah guerrillas firing machine guns ambushed Israeli commandos in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, killing three officers and wounding five soldiers, the guerrillas and Israeli Army officials

Israel retaliated with artillery and attacks by planes and helicopter gunships, Lebanese security officials said. Israel confirmed the air raids and said its planes had returned safely.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the ambush 'a very, very bitter blow for us."

"There is no question that this is a very big toll for Israel." he said, adding that one of the wounded soldiers was a friend of his.

The highest ranking officer killed, a 30-year-old major, commanded an elite paratrooper force, an Israeli Army spokesman said.

The spokesman confirmed the deaths of the major and two lieutenants, aged 21 and 22. An officer and four soldiers were

wounded, one of them seriously, he The fatalities were Israel's first this year in southern Lebanon, much of which Israel occupies as a "security zone" to protect its northern towns

Hezbollah group. The fighting occurred near the village of Meidoun, 17 kilometers (11 miles) west of Rashaya in southeastem Lebanon and about 25 kilometers north of the Israeli border.

from attacks by guerrillas, mainly the



A wounded Israeli paratrooper putting down his weapon as he returned from a clash with Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon on Tuesday.

Hezbollah said its fighters had in-tercepted a unit of Israeli commandos on the edge of the security zone as they

Ashkenazi, head of the Israeli Army's the edge of the security zone as they were trying to enter Lebanon.

The guerrillas fired machine guns and hurled grenades from a range of about 12 feet (4 meters), killing or opened fire first.

Northern Command, said the com-

Clinton Urges a United Approach

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton met Tuesday with the congressional leaders of both parties for the first time in 19 months, promising to work with them despite the partisan bittemess generated by the failed impeachment battle.

"We all took an oath and I think we intend to follow it," Mr. Clinton said, when asked by reporters if they could set. aside differences. "We owe it to the American people and I'm looking forward to it.

Mr. Clinton was joined in the Oval Office by Dennis Hastert, the speaker of the House, Dick Armey, the House majority leader, and Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader — all of whom voted to impeach or convict the president. Also present were the House minority leader, Richard Gephardt, and the Senate minority leader, Tom Daschle, who both voted against impeachment, along with the White House chief of staff, John Podesta.

Mr. Clinton met with the leaders to hash out legislative priorities from Social Security to education and to review U.S. policy in Kosovo.

All sides say they are looking for consensus on domestic issues as the president and Congress try to put the impeachment process behind them. In an address to the Democratic Gov-

ernors Association on Monday night, Mr. Clinton offered a vigorous defense of his administration's continued involvement in the peace processes in the Northern Ireland, the Middle East. Africa and Kosovo.

"No country turns away from its common values and common humanity even for a moment without paying a price,' he said. "Every night I thank God we have a chance to work for peace."

The meeting Tuesday was the first time in 19 months that Mr. Clinton had met with the Republican leaders in Congress. With many Republican lawmakers still smarting from their failed effort to drive Mr. Clinton from office, the session was

being seen as a chance to clear the air. The White House spokesman, Joe

overhaul Social Security and Medicare, improve education, and pass a patients' bill of rights and a minimum wage in-

"I think the president has long said that we need to move forward in a way that best advances the interests of Social Security, Medicare," Mr. Lockhart said. 'And I think the way we're going to do that is working with Democrats and Re-

Mr. Lott said he would press Mr. Clinton to support plans before a commission reviewing the Medicare program that would revamp the system, which is facing a budget crunch in 2008. Mr. Lott said the overhaul plan was one vote shy of commission approval. He also said he planned to discuss a missile defense system with Mr. Clinton, as well as Republican views on education and Social Security.

John Feehery, spokesman for Mr. Hastert, said education and Social Security were at the top of the speaker's agenda, but that he was also interested in

Lockhart, said the president wanted to gauging Mr. Clinton's sincerity. "We focus on his fiscal 2000 proposals to want to see if the president is serious about legislating, or if he wants to start

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the 2000 campaign," he said. ■ President Lauds Republicans

Earlier, John F. Harris of The Wash-

ington Post reported: With his relations with congressional Republicans still recovering from the searing impeachment trial, Mr. Clinton on Monday praised the more pragmatic approach of Republican governors in remarks that aides said were intended to set a more cooperative tone as Washington's agenda moves beyond scan-

'I want to work with you," Mr. C. ton told the assembly of the National Governors' Association in a morning meeting at the White House, even as he warned that some people were trying to cast the political debate "in partisan or ideological terms to try to force everyone to take sides." He praised what he called the impressive work of many Republican governors, singling out Michigan's John Engler.

Eritrea Says It Turned Back Ethiopian Tanks at Border

ASMARA, Eritrea - Eritrea said its forces were engaged in pitched fighting with Ethiopian ground forces Tuesday following an early-morning tank and air assault along the disputed border divid-ing the two Horn of Africa neighbors.

By midday, Eritrean soldiers had destroyed nine Ethiopian T-55 tanks and captured two others in clashes at the Merib-Setit front, 132 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of the capital, Asmara, the Eritrean Foreign Ministry said.

Ethiopia's ground assault at the Merib-Setit front — which Ethiopia calls the Badme front — began after Russian-made Antonov warplanes and artillery began bombarding Entrean positions, the ministry said in a statement.

The attack broke a lull in combat in the area, which had been relatively quiet since the initial outbreak of intense fighting more than two weeks ago, the state-

The two countries are contesting per of their 1,000-kilometer border that were never demarcated after Eritrea won independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

In the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. government spokeswoman, Selome Tadesse, confirmed there was fighting at the front but offered no further details. An earlier government statement said Ethiopian Air Force planes and artillery had pummeled Eritrean units at two oth-

er fronts along the frontier, inflicting what it described as "heavy losses." The Eritrean foreign minister, Haile Wolde Tensae, called the latest attacks by Ethiopia "a frantic second stab" following what he said was the failure of its air strikes Monday against the Tsor-

ona and Merib-Setit fronts. Tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia have escalated since last May. when war broke out along the barren. largely uninhabited border and 1,000 people were killed.

Heroin Smoking Up in North America, UN Says

KOREA: Public Executions on Rise, Refugees Say, to Fight Crimes Caused by Hunger

the area and has its headquarters in second. "We heard many such stories." ing people and the party, so it's done secretly. With those political criminals,

ical criminal, the execution is secret. to "hear the sound of gunshots again"

Political prisoners are accused of slander- and stepped up the pace of the killing.

The Associated Press

VIENNA - The UN drug control agency has warned that more and more that "on-line do-it-yourself guides that North Americans are smoking heroin and said Europe has emerged as a producer of cannabis and synthetic drugs.

In its 1998 report released Tuesday, the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board said, "Cannabis continues to be the most commonly abused drug in all three countries in North America, with a more potent variety grown in greenhouses in Canada and western parts of the United States.

"Another trend, the increasing purity levels of heroin available in North America, has led to an increase in heroin smoking, especially among young people, the study said. "The market ginating in Latin America, while heroin and trafficked worldwide. manufactured in Southeast Asia has maintained a predominant share of the illicit market in Canada."

Continued from Page 1

dren to process their flesh to look like

Although the executions are rarely

reported in the press, there is no secret

ers before the trial," Mr. Park said.

'Everybody knows the time and place.

Many people gather to watch. It's not

mandatory to go, but they make the

announcement so often people are anxious to see."

Representatives of aid organizations

The executions are widespread,"

visiting this region of China reported that they had heard similar stories from

said Park Ji Hun, coordinator for the

Korea Buddhist Sharing Movement,

which distributes food and clothing in

"They announce them on loudspeak-

about them, the refugees say.

many starving refugees.

In their report, the United Nations Post reported from the United Nations. drug controllers also expressed alarm enable their readers to prepare and abuse controlled substances continue to proliferate on the Internet.

In Latin America, efforts made by government and international groups have led to a decrease in areas under coca bush cultivation and the production of coca leaf, the main illicit crop in the region.

However, reductions in coca bush cultivations in some areas are quickly and easily compensated for by new cultivation sites in other areas," the report said. It urged Bolivia, Colombia and doctor-patient relationships. Peru to comply with their commitments to eradicate cultivation sites.

■ Americans Prefer 'Uppers'

Seoul. "We heard many such stories."

knew that thousands of people had been

executed in the North in recent years but

ecutions because they want to try to stop

robbery and bribery," said a spokesman

for the National Intelligence Service, the

South Korean spy agency. "They think

if they allow that kind of thing to go on,

they will have more problems. We know

Not all criminals are executed in pub-

There are open executions, and then

there are closed executions," said Kim

Myung Goo, 42, who served 10 years in

the North Korean Army. "If it's a polit-

had no precise figures.

it's a campaign of terror."

lic, some refugees say.

South Korean authorities said they

The government is using public ex-

The control board's study found that

people in North and South America consume large amounts of performance-enhancing drugs and stimulants, commonly 'uppers," while Europeans are the world's top users of so-called "downers," or stress-reducing drugs.

The report notes that there is no clearcut explanation for the differences in usage between Europe and the Americas. But it speculates that they could be linked to such factors as culture, the effects of advertising and differences in

Noting the tendency of Americans. Referring to Europe's growing role as heavy use of a wide range of perfor-

it's not only he or she who goes to prison

The number of overall executions has

been rising steadily, some refugees said,

since the one-year period of mourning

that followed the death in July 1994 of

Kim Il Sung, who had ruled the country

death there were no executions," said a

woman who fled from the eastern port

city of Ham Hung two years ago. "For a

Kim Il Sung's son and heir, Kim Jone Il.

who heads the all-powerful defense

commission and is general secretary of

the Workers' Party, had said he wanted

Then, she said, the word spread that

"For one month after Kim Il Sung's

or is executed but all the family.

since it was founded in 1948.

vear there were very few.

petition. Use of these drugs seems linked to culture and lifestyle."

"In the Americas, particularly in the United States, performance-enhancing drugs are given to children to boost school performance or help them conform with the demands of school life," the report says. "They are also taken by adults to achieve the desired body image, boost athletic prowess and social skills or enhance sexual performance."

Use by Americans of stimulants, particularly amphetamine-type substances for dieting and methylphenidate sub-stances, such as Ritalin, amounts to an annual total of 330 million defined daily doses, compared with a total of about 65 particularly in the United States, to make million daily doses in all other parts of the world, the report says.

The report finds no evidence that life in share of heroin from Southeast Asia that a producer of synthetic drugs, the report mance-enhancing drugs, from muscle—
is abused in the United States has con—said the drug known as "ecstasy" is building steroids to Ritalin, used to treat Europe is more stressful than in the Amertinued to be displaced by heroin ori- manufactured clandestinely in Europe attention deficit disorder and hyper- icas. Nevertheless, it says, stress-reducing activity in children, to Viagra, the anti-drugs, called benzodiazepines, are used impotence drug, the report says such by as much as 10 percent of the pophigh use "could be at least partly ex- ulations in some European countries, with John M. Goshko of The Washington plained by a prevalent sense of com-

Global Biotech Treaty **Hit By Sharp Discord**

By Andrew Pollack New York Times Service

CARTAGENA. Colombia - Negotiations to forge a global biotech- processed should not be covered benology safety treaty have hit a stale- cause they do not enter the environmate here over sharp disagreements ment. From 25 percent to 45 percent of between the United States and most major crops grown in the United States developing countries, raising the pros- are now genetically modified. pect that the talks could fail.

The talks, which have been under uled to end late Tuesday, and it is not unusual in such negotiations for hour. But several days of intense negotiations have failed to make much

"The protocol is very ill and in the hospital," Rafe Pomerance, the deputy assistant secretary of state for environment and development, said

The Biosafety Protocol, as it is called, would regulate the shipment between countries of organisms that have been altered by genetic engineering. The talks are an outgrowth of the Convention on Biological Di-versity reached at the 1992 Earth Summit talks in Rio de Janeiro.

The treaty is aimed at reducing the risk of harmful ecological effects from Developing nations at introducing genes from different species into plants, animals or microorganisms.

agricultural commodities, such as genetically altered wheat or soy beans, should be subject to the most important requirement of the protocol, which is that an exporter receive pering nation.

exports could get tied up in bureaucracy or blocked completely, maintains that commodities meant to be eaten or

But developing countries say that commodities should be included beway for more than a week, were sched- cause they contain seeds that can be planted or can accidentally escape into the environment. They also say there breakthroughs to occur at the 11th could be health risks from eating genetically modified food.

The European Union, where there is much more concern about genetically modified food than in the United States, also wants commodities included. The United States is allied with five other agricultural exporters Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile and Uruguay.

The latest draft of the treaty excludes agricultural commodities from the advanced approval requirements. But the developing nations want to include a provision that would allow individual countries, using the protocol, to require such advanced ap-

Developing nations are also un-happy that other things have been ex-cluded from the protocol. The latest draft has an exemption for pharma-The biggest split is over whether ceuticals and one aimed at organisms used in scientific research.

Another category exempted is products made from genetically altered organisms, which could include everything from com flakes mission in advance from the import- made from genetically engineered g nation. com or blue jeans made from ge-Washington, worried that tens of bil-netically modified cotton.

POUND: Blair Unveils Plan for Converting Britain to the Euro

Continued from Page 1

clearer commitment to joining and specific policies to bring Britain's economy into line with the 11-country euro zone.

David Heathcoat-Amory, a spokesman for the Conservative Party, said the government was violating constitutional procedures by starting preparations for the euro before winning public consent in a referendum. "They are softening us up by creating the illusion of inevitability by using the power of the state," he said.

Malcolm Bruce, Treasury spokesman for the Liberal Democratic Party, accused Mr. Blair of trying to get to the euro by stealth rather than openly advocating membership and gearing eco-nomic policies accordingly. "That is a very timid position that will not win a referendum because it lacks vision and

leadership," he said. A similar view was expressed by Sir Leon Brittan, one of Britain's two members on the European Commission, "It would be better if it was also accompanied by an acceleration of the political pace, and the prime minister made it clear

that we had in effect decided." he said. Mr. Blair will brief other European Union leaders of his strategy at an informal summit meeting in Germany on Friday, and British officials hoped for a

In Paris, President Jacques Chirac said he was "delighted" that Brimin was step-

spokeswoman. But one European dipomat said Mr. Blair was holding back on the front that matters. "Sooner or later, if he wants to take Britain into the euro, he will have to come out, as it were, and take on the tabloid press," the diplomat said. Indeed, the Daily Mail gave a taste of

the government's strategy of pushing preparations before a referendum as "a denial of real democracy." The National Changeover Plan, as the blueprint was called, was limited in nature, dealing only with the mechanical issues of switching from pounds to euros. It envisioned a three-year period between a government decision in favor of joining, which Mr. Blair said could

by May 2002, and the adoption of euro notes and coins. The plan did not address how or when Britain might lock the exchange rate of the pound against the euro. That was a crucial omission because EU rules require two years of exchange-rate stability prior to entry, and British industry is lobbying for a depreciation of around 10 percent to

come after the election that must be held

lift the country's compentiveness. Big corporations and banks must be ready to do business in euros by the locking date, and the lack of a clear timetable could cause them to delay preparations, said Graham Bishop, an economist at Salomon Smith Barney the government as to what their intentions Inc. The government's stance "still are," said Lord Alexander, the chairman

we really intend to do this," " he said. Mr. Blair acknowledged that the plan represented a change of gear, not a change of policy. Calling membership "conditional, not inevitable," he said the government would need to see durable convergence between Britain's the battle to come Tuesday, criticizing economy and the euro zone, and be persuaded that the euro would be good for jobs. He included a warning to Britain's European Union partners that the EU needed to make "fundamental reforms" of labor regulations, compen-

tion rules and welfare systems. But his language toward the euro was the most positive yet, and he emphasized the euro's smooth introduction this year.

In an effort to underline the government's seriousness, Mr. Blair said he would seek parliamentary approval to spend tens of millions of pounds in advance of any referendum to begin preparing the key government agencies -Social Security, Customs and the Inland Revenue - to be able to deal in euros. The government has indicated it could take those agencies longer than the private sector to become euro-capable, so early preparations are vital to Britain's entry prospects.

Business leaders welcomed the statement but were still left looking for a clearer timetable.

"We need much greater clarity from ping up preparations, according to his boils down to an unwillingness to say, of National Westminster Bank PLC.

In talking about the executions, none of the refugees, including adolescents so stunted by starvation as to look half their age, appeared especially horrified by what they had seen. They appeared more disgusted by the cannibalism that all of them said was now a common crime. Park Chul said that he had seen a family

of five shot to death in Heidong, a district not far from the Tumen River border with China, because of cannibalism. The father and mother had been luring

small children into their house, he said, drugging them with wine, then strangling them, chopping up their bodies and mingling the flesh with pork, which was then sold on local markets. Executed along with the parents were their three sons, the youngest 12, he said.

Most people had stories to tell about cannibalism - sometimes just rumors, other times based on knowledge and

experience.
"I heard many times that people kill people and eat the bodies," said Kim Chul. 16, who is now living in Yangjin. ·He said he had seen his first execution about two years ago when his teacher in his village school near the northeastern free trade zone of Rajin and Songbon led his class to the execution ground. "The teacher said, 'Do not commit any crime, come to school and study hard.""

He said he had last seen an execution Feb. 1, 1998, the day before he fled across the Tumen River on the last of three attempts to escape to China. "There were a man and a woman," he said. "They were executed for escaping to China three times and being returned to North Korea."

North Korea is widely believed to have eased up on the penalties for fleeing the country.

Chinese authorities, under pressure from Pyongyang, have cracked down recently on North Korean refugees; returning them whenever they find them and imposing fines of several hundred dollars on Chinese convicted of harboring them. -

The returnees generally are beaten by North Korean guards once they are returned but often are freed after a few weeks in custody, refugees said.

"When Kim Il Sung was alive, when people died, the government provided a coffin," said Kim Chul Soo, who worked in a factory near the port of Hamhung until all the factories were shut. "Now

TECH: U.S. Rejects Satellite Sale to China

Continued from Page 1

a mobile telephone network over much of Asia, reaching from China to Indonesia, and then across the Indian Ocean as far as Pakistan. The Commerce Department is expected to formally no-tify Hughes of its "intent to deny" in the next few days, officials said. The company issued a statement

Monday night that made no reference to a decision but reiterated that the satellite deal "can be used as a model for how we can protect national security while launching satellites overseas.' The decision effectively revokes

President Bill Clinton's approval of the sale two and a half years ago. At the time, Mr. Clinton's aides assured him that it would not contribute to Chinese military capabilities.

The State Department and the Defense Department then concurred with the decision but had not thoroughly investigated the military links of the Singapore-based consortium that was the official buyer of the satellite. Ofpeople are just put in the ground. At ficials of the consortium included top night people go to the burial of a recent military officers of the People's Libcorpse, dig it up, cut it apart, cook it and eration Army, who also served in posts visit to Washington in April by the eat it. It happens. It really happens." with the China Satellite Launch & Chinese prime minister, Zhu Rongji.

Tracking Control Corp.

Hughes officials had sought an expedited review and pressured the attainministration to approve the deal, at cording to government documents provided later to congressional inves-

A change in the satellite's design forced the company to apply for a revised license, and a raft of subsequent investigations into Chinese efforts to obtain American technology helpedprompt the administration to reverse its

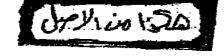
The decision was made while relations between Washington and Beijing are eroding on many fronts, from human rights to economic interchanges.

A senior U.S. official speculated that the Chinese would probably move quickly to obtain a similar satellite from Europe, in part to drive home their ability to circumvent U.S. restrictions and reward non-American competitors.

But it appears unlikely that Chink

could acquire technology as sophisticated as that offered by Hughes. Mrs. Albright is scheduled to visit Beijing next week in connection with a





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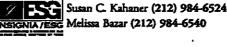
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Good News From Lahore

The city of Labore, in the fertile plains of Punjab, lies along the route of countless ancient military invasions of the Asian subcontinent. It was a fitting place for prime ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India and Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan to pledge a new effort to defuse the tensions that led both to test nuclear weapons last year. Some stirring atmospherics surrounded the renewed dedication by the rival nations to resolve their differences peacefully. But many additional steps will be necessary to reduce the catastrophic potential of a

nuclear conflict in this unstable region. It took courage for Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Sharif to meet and redouble their negotiating efforts while both are under fire from extremists at home. Mr. Vajpayee's decision to travel by bus across the border and pay the first visit to Pakistan by an Indian prime minister in 10 years was a rebuke to Hindu nationalists in his own ruling coalition who believe that Pakistan has fomented the Muslim rebellion in the Indian state of Kashmir. Mr. Sharif, for his part, had to mobilize the police to put down anti-India rioters during the visit. To translate the cordial expressions of Lahore into achievements, both countries must now work hard to sign a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, which they pledged to do last fall.

The weekend discussions in Lahore led to a vague promise of sharing information to prevent an accidental launch of nuclear weapons. The goal has been talked about for years and now has obvious new urgency. But both countries need to go further and reach agreement to stop production of weapons-grade nuclear material, prevent the export of nuclear technology

and halt the deployment of missiles that can deliver nuclear weapons. The United States, which imposed heavy sanctions on India and Pakistan after the nuclear tests, is right to wait for action on these steps before it lifts the sanctions. But Washington has also wisely let the World Bank proceed with some critical loans as a nudge to the dialogue that both countries are engaged in.

As India had wanted, both leaders pledged to discuss economic and humanitarian steps to improve relations. As Pakistan had insisted, both sides agreed to place the disputes over Kashmir, India's only Muslim-dominated state, high on the agenda of their talks. Two of the three wars between India and Pakistan have taken place there, and a large portion of both countries armies is arrayed along the border.

The Clinton administration has

played a constructive role in bringing two suspicious countries together. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott has held eight meetings with the leaders of each country in the last eight months. But in the end, India and Pakistan must talk about their problems without the prodding of intermediaries.

It was thus especially encouraging that the meeting in Lahore was initiated by Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Sharif themselves. Many Pakistanis are bound to be impressed that Mr. Vajpayee's trip included a visit to the historic site where Pakistan's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, proclaimed his vision of a Muslim state in South Asia. If the spirit of Lahore can be translated into concrete steps, the way may be clear for the long-deferred visit to the region later this year by President Bill Clinton. - THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Hillary-Mania, Again

There is something familiar about the Hillary-mania that has overtaken the U.S. media. By virtue of her announcement that she is officially thinking about whether to run for the Senate from New York, Mrs. Clinton has gotten herself on the cover of both Time and Newsweek. She was the obsession of almost all the talking heads in Washington on Sunday and probably half the Saturday night dinner parties in New York City.

It was February 1993 all over again, when the first lady became chairwoman of the Clinton administration's task force on health care. Mrs. Clinton made the cover of Newsweek then, was reported to be a better newsstand attraction than Princess Diana, and made a much-discussed call on Senate leaders that left everyone burbling dutifully about her intelligence and knowledge of policy. "She's sharp, she's on the ball and I can't tell you what a real pleasure it is ... to be able to sit there and talk about your concerns with her and call her Hillary," reported Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio.

The health care plan's ignominious end, Travelgate, Filegate and other first-term disasters made it apparent that mixing the roles of first lady and administration strategist/lightning rod was not easy.

For many people, the idea of Hillary Clinton for Senate is attractive just because it could allow her to untangle herself from the political side of her marriage and compete for a power base that is all her own. Many women might ante up a campaign contribution just in the hopes of seeing Mrs. Clinton sworn in on the day that her husband becomes unemployed. She has spent her adult life mainly in the role of sup-portive wife — albeit in a very modern version of that part. If the president announces that it is now Hillary's turn to shine, and his to take on the jobs of campaign cheerleader and family breadwinner, even many of the couple's

critics would agree that it's about time. At this early stage in the political season, our only interest is in encouraging races that will be competitive and enlightening for the voters. Any race involving so well known, know-ledgeable and polarizing a figure as Mrs. Clinton would fill those requirements. But if she does decide to run, she will be giving up some of the insulation and deference that go with being a resident of the White House. Her policy speeches will have to become more focused, her relations with the press more open. Her adversarial attitude toward the media might be understandable for a first lady whose marriage has been under such intense and embarrassing scrutiny, but as a Senate candidate she would be expected to be available, and to answer the questions put to her.

The New York media may sometimes get more credit for feistiness than they deserve, but competitive elections in New York are exhausting, highpressure affairs in which relatively minor mistakes can flare into crises for untested candidates. That was part of the message delivered by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in his weekend attack on Mrs. Clinton's endorsement of Palestinian statehood. The mayor was saving, with typical subtlety: We'd love to have you play tennis with us. Here's how hard we hit the ball when we're warming up.

Hillary Clinton is, at this stage, the potential candidate that Geraldine Ferraro wanted to be --- a celebrity-icon so powerful that her entrance into the race would unleash a flood of campaign contributions and a respectful retreat by other potential Democratic candidates. Mrs. Clinton can learn from Ms. Ferraro's errors. These days, nobody captures an open Senate seat in New York simply by showing up. At least, no one has done it yet.

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment

Stop This Y2K Panic

A recent national poll showed that more than two out of three Americans believe that Y2K problems will last at least a couple of months. One in four intends to hoard food and water; 16 percent of those polled said they will remove all their money from banks.

The "end of the world as we know it" has become a moneymaking scandal. You name it: long-term storage foods, water, various fuels, generators. otherwise isolated and useless plots of land for so-called survival hideouts. Only the backyard bomb shelter craze

of the 1950s compares. Meanwhile, evidence that civilization will continue abounds. The travel industry, for example, has reported mostly problemfree computer bookings of post-1999 departure and return dates, including 500,000 airline reservations on hundreds of air carriers.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman dismisses the likelihood that Y2K will lead to widespread food shortages. Only one-third of U.S. farmers rely on computer systems, and the computers that are used are mostly for record-

- Los Angeles Times.

Herald Eribune

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Or America and Europe Could Gang Up on Japan

OS ANGELES - President Jacques Chirac of France proposes "currency zones" within which the developed economies will manage their exchange rates. U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin objects. One more trans-Atlantic controversy.

But does the tiff involve different

economic concepts? Not really. A better description would be different kinds of machinery designed to reach a common objective - economic growth unimpeded by mercantilism.

The two immediate problems for the triangle of wealthy economies — the United States, Western Europe and Jaand, second, Japan itself.

The central function of currency "architecture" is to prevent competitive mercantilism - each nation deflating its currency and slowing down its domestic demand in order to export more and import less. That would killgrowth in rich and poor countries alike. In the case of Japan, which has lived by mercantilism for some decades, the immediate task is to keep Japan from trying to solve its depression by spreading it abroad, and then to help it start itself toward self-support.
That is what Mr. Chirac's currency

zones are for. And Mr. Rubin has made

By Robert A. Levine

clear that his objective, too, is "robust demand-led growth that would contribute, all other things being equal, to currency stability.

One reason for the discussion of new currency architecture is that for two decades currency stability has been given priority over demand-led growth. a reversal of Mr. Rubin's ordering. Another reason — a problem that

contains its own solution — is that European monetary union has changed a fractionated and inherently competpan — are, first, to maintain growth in three-way oligopoly which can make decisions for the common good.

In the post-World War II beginning, the Bretton Woods agreement avoided fractionated currency competition by creating a well-financed fixed-exchange-rate structure. Growth was the objective; the Depression remained a fresh memory. The chief designer of Bretton Woods was John Maynard Keynes, who in the 1920s had warned against post-World War I tight money, and in the 1930s became the prophet of new ways to combat the Depression.

In the 1970s, Bretton Woods broke down under the pressure of the oil price crises and other events. The fixed rates

that had lasted for the first postwar quarter-century were replaced by a flexible exchange system.

The experience of the '70s led in the presidency in the early '80s, France tried to resist this stress and expand its domestic demand; it was forced back into line by its competitors.

The anti-inflationary emphasis was built into the 1991 Maastricht agreement that set the structure for monetary union at the end of the decade. The conservative governments of all the major West European states, backed by their naturally conservative central banks, fought inflation even as unemployment rose to new postwar highs. In a remarkably short period in 1997

and 1998, however, European politics reversed. Center-left governments, anxious to be more active than their predecessors in encouraging growth and fighting unemployment, came to power in most West European countries. And last Jan. 1, the birth of the euro ended intra-European currency competition and opened the door for the new governments to cooperate in the kind of growth policy that had been impossible for Mr. Mitterrand alone.

That is where France has been trying to go. It is joined by Gerhard Schroeder's Germany. Tony Blair's Britain, beginning to turn down, is unlikely to disagree. And while Europe flationary stability; growth slowed and alone would find it difficult to resist untemployment was kept high. In the first years of François Mitterrand's the wealthy triangle, Secretary Rubin's the wealthy triangle, Secretary Rubin's "robust demand-led growth" makes clear that the Clinton administration

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Jan Har-fires

wants to move in the same direction. If Europe and the United States cooperate, coordination for growth is achievable, whether through Mr. Chirac's formal currency zones or under less formal arrangements.

That would leave the knottier problem of the remaining third, Japan. Can currency coordination begin to wean it from mercantilism? Or should Europe and the United States support their own jobs and growth through robust domestic demand?

Or, as the final sanction, might the possibility of a coordinated defense by the United States and Europe bring Japan to consider the restructuring needed for the long run? These are the real questions.

The writer, an economist and former official in the U.S. executive and legislative branches, contributed this to the International Herald Tribune.

Much to Celebrate in Russia, but Freedoms Are Fragile.

MOSCOW — In 1986, my friends and I were sitting around a kitchen table talking about why we did not believe in Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika. We had lived through too many propaganda campaigns. one of us said, what would it take for us to believe

that perestroika was real? Our wildest dreams stretched to a release of political prisoners, a pullout from Afghanistan and an end to Communist Party nomenklatura privileges. None of these seemed even

remotely possible. But that very same year, Andrei Sakharov came back from his exile in Gorky, and thereafter other political prisoners were released one by one. Soviet troops were out of Afghanistan by early 1989. It took until 1991 for the Communist big shots to lose their high status.

Now Communists dominate the Duma, and a former head of the planning agency is the No. 2 man in the cabinet. Just recently, the Duma voted to return the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky. mastermind of the Red Terror, to the square in front of the former KGB headquarters. Is the old system back? Or, as a friend called to ask me, "Are

we emigrating yet?" It is useful to look again at those touchstones that more than a decade ago persuaded us that the absolutely impossible was happening.

Political prisoners? Inconceivable in today's Russia. When we see neofascists holding meetings and selling newspapers just like any other political activists, some of us are not so sure it is an entirely good thing. But when three dissidents were convicted in China not long ago for trying to form an alternative party, it sounded al-

the Israeli election cam-

paign now in full swing, it's

time to ask who will influence

the outcome most. Will it be Yasser, Hafez or Ovadia?

Ovadia Yosef is spiritual

leader of the ultra-orthodox

Shas party. This month the rabbi launched a tirade against

the Israeli Supreme Court that

could make this election, for

the first time, an election not

about which prime ministerial

candidate can be the toughest

in dealing with the hard-line

Arabs but about which can be

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Angered by several Su-

preme Court decisions, in-

cluding one that outlawed

blanket deferments from army

service for ultra-orthodox

youths, Rabbi Yosef de-

nounced the court judges as

"wicked ... empty-headed and wanton evildoers" who are

"unclean and desecrate the

Sabbath." Some 250,000 ul-

tra-orthodox took to the

While politicians might

prefer that the next election be

about "What size Israel do

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cused on "What sort of Israel

shift? For many years, the ul-

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the last two decades, as they

have become dependent on

government subsidies for their

institutions, they have become

system, and now they want

integrated into the political

What brought about this

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of Israel's high court.

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the ultra-orthodox Jews.

By Masha Lipman

most medieval to us in Russia. In our parliamentary elections this year, several dozen parties are expected to compete. Liberal reformers may have largely lost influence and popularity, but they have free access to the political scene. Our press varies from liberal

to Communist to fascist, with the major newspapers still on the democratic side. Mockery of the government abounds in the papers and on television. And there is an uncensored

choice of books and movies and modern art of the wildest variety. A Communist leader of vesteryear would have dropped

dead of anger at such brazen lack of restraint.

Afghanistan? Forget it. Russia's undernourished, poorly armed and poorly trained army disgraced itself even inside Russia, with its defeat in Chechnya Military expansion is out of the question.

As for privileges for the elite, it is true that the old Communist nomenklatura has every reason to be jealous of today's Russian bureaucrats. But at least one thing is different: The Communist bosses enjoyed their privileges while depriving us of the opportunity.

e opportunity. Unquestionably, our free- the magazine ltogi, contributed They could travel abroad, but doms are fragile. A serious this to The Washington Post.

we were locked up at home. threat could come from the next Today's bosses may grab what does not belong to them, but they could not care less what we read or listen to, or write or talk about, or whether we travel. Those of us who remember

Soviet constraint and oppression can still marvel at the freedoms we enjoy today. Even if none of the contenders for president in the post-Yeltsin era seems very attractive, we still appreciate the opportunity to make a choice—the notion that we will elect our own president and witness the first democratic transfer of supreme power in Russia's history.

government; none of the main presidential candidates comes across as an ardent advocate of liberal values. But a real setback is as hard to imagine now as realliberalization was in 1986.

Once again we are monitoring our freedoms as a touchstone. My hope is that our-kitchen table will not be the only venue of the discussion. For now, despite the Duma vote, Dzerzhinsky remains in the park of abandoned monuments where he was dumped

after his 1991 dethroning.

The writer, deputy editor of

Transition for East Timor Needs Planning

ANBERRA — Events in East Timor are moving rapidly after almost 25 years of Indonesian opposition to selfdetermination. The government of President B. J. Habibie has moved from defense of the status quo to actively examining the possibility of independence for East Timor by Jan. 1, should

Indonesia's autonomy proposal for the territory be rejected. Mr. Habibie should be given courage. However, letting go of Indonesia's troublesome 27th province is not as simple as it might seem. There are still many unanswered questions relating to the timing and nature

of the transitional process. A sudden transition to democracy would almost certainly create more problems than it solved. The East Timorese do not have the skills or resources to take control of their affairs in and Buginese migrant commu-

Tame Israel's Ultra-Orthodox Tail

their own Torah values.

"As long as the ultra-or-

thodox were outsiders to the

state, they had no interest in a

Torah state, but now that they

feel that the state is theirs, they want their kind of state," ob-

serves Moshe Halbertal, a re-

ligious philosopher at the

Hebrew University. "But the

conception of Judaism they

want to bring to that state is

fundamentally anti-democrat-

ic - it is untempered by any of the adaptations that Judaism

has gone through in relation to

modernity and political power

elsewhere around the world."

thodox have learned how to

operate in Israeli democracy,

they have not absorbed the

underlying values of that de-mocracy. What really angers

the ultra-orthodox about the

Supreme Court is not only its

decisions but the fact that, un-

like the Labor and Likud

parties, which can be bought

off in exchange for ultra-or-

thodox votes, the high court is

orthodox have learned to ac-

cept that part of Israeli de-

mocracy that is about political

horse-trading in Parliament.

The other half — that there is a

rule of secular law above any

religious laws — they have

not accepted. The ultra-ortho-

coercing them; the court sees

itself as preventing the ultra-

orthodox from coercing the

that the old status quo - that

But what everyone agrees is no one knows."

rest of Israel

in other words, the ultra-

totally independent.

Indeed, while the ultra-or-

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — With that system to reflect more of

By Alan Dupont

such a short time without put-nities that have established ting at risk the independence and freedom they have fought so long to achieve.

In theory, Indonesia could wash its hands of East Timor entirely, as many in the Jakartar elite are urging. But studied indifference and neglect are hardly a promising formula for small but committed minority a constructive relationship with of "integrationists" are vehe-

a new East Timorese state. The reality is that Indonesia cannot quarantine itself from events in East Timor. Continuing political instability there would inevitably spread into adjacent Indonesian West

Timor and probably beyond. The two most likely sources of instability are divisions within the indigenous East Timorese population, and between the East Timorese and the Javanese

the ultra-orthodox get to de-

cide all things religious and

the secular parties get to eat

pork chops at home and de-

cide the rest - is breaking

down. And Israel's politicians

are not ready for this.

Prime Minister Benjamin

Netatiyahu wants to run against Yasser Arafat. He can't

run against Rabbi Yosef be-

cause he needs every ultra-or-

thodox vote to get re-elected.

But if he appears indifferent to

orthodox attempts to undercut

the high court, it could hart

him with some of his secular

for the Labor Party leader,

Ehud Barak, but he seems deaf

to it. His approach is to just

attack the ultra-orthodox.

What he should do is present

himself as someone who can

build a bridge between secular

a new synagogue-state status quo. This would make clear

that the state must be a place

where all streams of Judaism

--- ultra-orthodox, modern or-

thodox, conservative and re-

form - will feel at home, but

where no one of them will be

allowed to use the state to co-

fering is a new social contract

that will redefine Israel as a

Jewish democratic state,

where all the different con-

ceptions of what it means to be

a Jew can debate each other,"

said Mr. Halbertal. "If we

cannot produce such a frame-

work, then we are heading to-

ward a clash the end of which

The New York Times.

"What Barak should be of-

erce or dominate the others.

He needs to be articulating

and religious Israelis.

This issue is an opportunity

nationalist followers.

themselves since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it the following year.
There is ample evidence that

many East Timorese have yet to be convinced that independence is their best alternative. A mently opposed to severing ties with Indonesia. Unless opposed views can be reconciled, civil war cannot be ruled out.

Muslim Javanese and Buginese have resulted in violence and killings in recent years. If anti-Muslim pogroms were to occur before independence, or after East Timor assumed statehood, public opinion in Indonesia would almost certainly force Jakarta to respond vigorously. A chronically weak state on its doorstep could provide precisely the kind of opportunities for external power influence

and intervention that Jakarta

has long feared. Such concern largely precipitated its decision to invade East Timor in 1975. There is also the risk that East Timor, like many of the micro island states of the Pacific and the Caribbean, could become a haven drug traffick-

ers and money laundering. Indonesia should start preparing a long-term policy of engagement with East Timor that protects Indonesia's vital national interests but gives independent East Timor sufficient geopolitical space to pursue its own affairs free of coercion or undue outside influence. First, Jakarta must allow the

East Timorese to decide their Herald Tribune.

own future. To simply declare that East Timor is no longer part of Indonesia by a vote in the Indonesian Parliament denies a future East Timorese administration the political legitimacy which only an act of free choice can provide.

Second, if East Timor chooses independence, Indonesia should accept a transition period of no less than three years and preferably five. This is the minimum period that a new government in Dili would need to establish itself and begin what will be a long and difficult process of reconciling the nascent Tensions between the Christian majority East Timorese and country's divergent political,

ethnic and religious interests. Third, Indonesia needs to take concrete steps to treat the distrust and bostility that have built up during 25 years of occupation. It has a unique understanding of East Timor and is well placed to contribute to its future economic and political growth. A bilateral framework agreement addressing areas for future cooperation would be seen as a positive gesture by East Timor and a tangible sign that Indonesia is prepared to consider a mutually beneficial partnership for the

21st century. Finally, Indonesia could reassert its regional leadership by encouraging other. Southeast Asian states to invest in East Timor and by sponsoring East Timor's membership in the region's key economic, political and security forums.

The writer is director of the Asia-Security Program at the Australian National University's Strategic and Defense Studies Center. He contributed this comment to the International

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: French Arrests

PARIS - After the funeral of Félix Faure, Parisians were treated to an unexpected sen-sation. M. Paul Déroulède was at the head of the Ligue des Patriotes and Antisemitic committees. General Roget arrived at the head of a brigade of infantry. Two thousand people continued to shout, "Vive la Ré-publique!" MM. Paul Déroulede and Marcel Habert began to harangue the soldiers, repeating "Save us from anarchy and the Dreyfusards." At last the general answered: "If you do not go out, you will be my prisoners." Very well, they replied. "We are your prisoners."

1924: Islamic Holiday CONSTANTINOPLE --- Seven hundred American tourists found themselves unable to

make purchases of souvenirs.

All places of barter and sale

ory. But if the tourists were disappointed, they were not half so disappointed as the merchants. The loss of the tourist trade was a serious matter with them. The Angora Government was requested to permit the bazaar to remain open - but Angora is very far way and the merchants were compelled to mark time,

were closed under the new law

making Friday closing compuls-

1949: Sofia Rebuff

WASHINGTON - The United States protested against Bulgaria's arrest of fifteen Protestant churchmen as a "blatant terroristic effort" to intimidate religious denominations. A note of protest delivered to the Bulgarian Communist government was rejected. The churchmen are scheduled to go on trial on Friday [Feb. 25]. They are charged with spying for Great Britain and the United States. and with black marketing.

li government as alien. But in dox see the Supreme Court as

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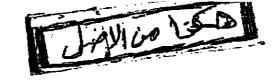
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OPINION/LETTERS

The Moral Regulators Will Not Drop Out, And That Means Trouble for Republicans

By Alan Wolfe

B ROOKLINE, Massachusetts — Many Republicans are now bravely insisting that they will not backpedal from their conservative views, no matter how far out of the mainstream they may be.

In announcing his presidential ambitions last Thursday, Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire, for example, predicted that he would emerge from the pack because his views were more conservative than those of all his rivals. An even more militant reaffirmation came from Paul Weyrich, founder of the Free Congress Foundation. In a widely cited letter posted on his organization's Web

The 'new class' theory failed when it finally was put to a test by President Clinton's misconduct.

page last week, Mr. Weyrich said, "If there really were a moral majority out there, Bill Clinton would have been driven from office months ago."
Instead, Mr. Weyrich contended, American culture had

become 'an ever-widening sewer.'

In an astonishing replay of the 1960s, Mr. Weyrich urged his followers to "turn off, tune out and drop out of American culture." Concluding that "politics has failed." he raised speculation that he was urging con-

politics, the Republicans would have a better chance of aligning themselves with the majority of Americans. But that is not likely to happen. Still strongly ensconced in states like Iowa, where they have shown their willingness to drive through snowstorms to attend caucuses and primaries, Christian conservatives will continue to ad- inals arrested were somehow immoral. If liberalism

This pattern began in the 1970s, when moral regulators like Mr. Weyrich and the Reverend Jerry Falwell helped shift the Republican Party to the right. But we forget that they were successful because they were able to find common ground with economic libertarians, who traditionally dominated the party.

The alliance was an unusual one. While both call

themselves conservative, it would be difficult to find two groups more opposed in their views of human nature. Economic libertarians believe that people will generally act in their own and therefore society's best interest, and so can be left alone to make the right decisions. Moral regulators believe that people are tempted by sin and need strong hand to keep them in line.

The alliance was kept intact because both groups attributed the country's most pressing problems to "new class" of elite liberals - academics, Hollywood producers, government bureaucrats, journalists, therapists and others. The cultural views of this elite were not only anti-

business. Republicans contended, but also morally relativistic. More important, this new class was supposedly at odds with ordinary Americans, who were said to be pro-capitalist, religious and committed to traditional, pro-

Conservatives agreed that people were basically good and did not need government to make them better. Moral regulators joined economic libertarians to argue that government — that is, the big-spending plans of liberal elites - should be lifted off people's backs. If only conservatives could break through the stranglehold of the cultural elites, they could claim a majority.

The argument was validated, or seemed to be, by the ascendancy of Ronald Reagan, who said Americans were fed up with overweening government, as well as by Democratic politicians like George McGovern and Michael Dukakis, who piously accused Americans of being too selfish — a backhanded way of saying that people who had qualms about welfare or wanted crimminister litmus tests to Republican presidential hopefuls. was behind a campaign to reform human nature, Amer-



icans were prepared to try conservatism instead. Meanwhile the theory of the "new class" was never tested empirically — until this past year, when Mr. Clinton's sexual misconduct forced the issue. Here was a chance for the country to make a stand against moral relativism." But the opposite happened. As the president's popularity held steady and even grew, conservative moralists decided that the problem was not Bill Clinton but the large majority of Americans who wanted him to remain in office. The new class theory failed.

All of a sudden, conservative Republicans began to sound just like President Jimmy Carter when he chastised Americans for being gas-guzzling narcissists. The same conservatives who ridiculed self-appointed experts for telling Americans how to live insist now that they know better than ordinary people what is right and proper.

Republicans must decide what kind of party they want to have. If they continue to insist that Americans are too sinful to be trusted with liberty, they may end up like the Democrats of the 1970s and '80s, headed for a long winter in the political wilderness.

The writer, a professor of sociology at Boston University, is author most recently of "One Nation, After All." He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

With All This Perfect Sex. It's Natural to Complain

By Daniel S. Greenberg

B ALTIMORE — The casualty and also says that "service de-livery efforts should be augmented recently published in a leading medical journal is a product of research run amok in America's medicalized, supersexualized society. With its widely echoed findings of a sexually limping society, it deserves closer scrutiny than the hip news accounts it gen-erated about "bedroom blues" and the Viagra generation.

As a piece of research, the sex report looks pretty flimsy. Moreover, its credibility was not enhanced by the belated disclo-

MEANWHILE

sure that the two authors had previously served as paid consultants to Pfizer, the manufacturer of performance-enhancing Viagra.
The findings were derived from

a nationwide survey of 1,410 men and 1,749 women aged 18 to 59 relatively few people, of differing marital, cultural, educational and economic backgrounds, spread over a span of age groups in which sexual attitudes generally vary. Excluded were persons sexually inactive in the prior year and inhabitants of "barracks, college dormitories and prisons, as well as those who did not know English well enough to be interviewed."

Employing in-person interviews that averaged 90 minutes, the survey attained a completion rate coyly described as "greater than 79 percent." From these tiny numbers, cosmic conclusions were extracted about America and sex.

As is customary in the business of conducting and interpreting surveys, the authors, from the University of Chicago and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, claim they employed unassailable scientific rigor. "Sampling, data collection, and response analysis were all conducted under highly controlled conditions," they report in the Journal of the American Medical Association of Feb. 10. With a certitude reminiscent of

the serial bumblers of election polling, the impresarios of the search into humanity's most intimate and private experiences assert that "sexual problems are widespread" and warrant "recognition as a significant public health concern." The report includes the requisite call for further research

livery efforts should be augmented to target high-risk populations."

Surveys of sex are at best notoriously unreliable, as illustrated by the arithmetical conundrum of men claiming, without prostitutes in the count, far more heterosexual experience than women. This one advances into new realms of uncertainty by raising issues that have been thoroughly contamin-ated by the sexual obsessiveness that pervades America.

A brief wait in a supermarket checkout line suggests that the word "orgasm" is mandatory on the covers of magazines intended for women. By some accounts, the pomo film industry exceeds the big-name studios in audience and revenues, although the productions of the two branches of filmmaking are increasingly indistinguishable. The models and performers in this round-the-clock obsession with sex are slender-to-anorexic human specimens whose emotions range from delight to ecstasy.

Given this pervasive, idealized sexuality, a pollster does not have to venture far to encounter normal humans who are gripped by "anxiety about sexual performance" and "arousal difficulties." Who can match the Olympians of TV's flesh dramas or the ureless copulations a few clicks and a credit card away on the Internet? As for the respondents who were

found to be "lacking a desire for sex" or who failed to enjoy sex, the real problem might be the ordinary mates available to them, compared with the sexually sublime dreamboats and their lovemaking on television and in the movies. For any problem that they can

conceivably claim as their own, medicine and science somberly declare a need for more research and recruitment of more patients. Both approaches are entrenched

in America's medicalized society, where there is plenty of money for research and deep faith that science will eventually produce fixes for all ills. But when a culture is steeped in loony visions of sex, sexual dysfunction is bound to flourish.

The writer is a science journalist and visiting scholar in the history of science, medicine and technology at Johns Hopkins University. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Kurdish Question

Regarding "It's Time for Au-tonomy for the Kurds" (Opinion, Feb. 20) by Stephen S. Rosenfeld: All Turkish Kurds are citizens of Turkey with full voting rights. Kurds are members of Parliament and ministers of state. The Kurdish Workers Party is a terrorist Marxist organization, and the Surks defend their borders and people. Kurds can speak their own

ianguage within Turkey and are protected by Turkish law.

Abdullah Ocalan and his terrorists have killed thousands of people, bombed tourist resorts and caused no end of trouble in the Iraqis, Syrians, Lebanese and world. The Kurds have their own others, the great powers neglected

are too busy fighting with each other to make it work. The Turks are right to not give up their homeland. Perhaps if the Western world showed more support for its friend and partner Turkey, the world would be a more peaceful place. JOHN McGOUGH.

The Kurds have been a recognized nationality for more than 3,000 years and have fought against the hegemony of neighbors from the Babylonians to the Turks. Although their claims to statehood were as valid as those of

after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. The Kurds have. been seriously shortchanged for almost 80 years, Isn't it high time for their plight to be addressed by some international body?

ROBERT F. ILLING. Porto, Portugal.

Arms and Their Uses

The writer mixes two different subjects, the state of the U.S. military and the global trade in arms. As for the first, as we look back on al: Let's Eradicate Child Poverty

out: The chances for some sort of world peace have risen in proportion to America's military strength and its will to use it in good causes. As for the global arms trade, horribly wasteful as it is, Mr. Arias's

this sorry century one fact stands

"Oh, wouldn't it be nice if we were all nice" naïveté misses the point that the nature of man is the problem, not the sophistication of his weapons. The Hutu in Rwanda did with just axes and clubs. HERMAN ARCHER.

Spending the Surplus

Regarding "A Modest Propos-

Jr., and the report "Republicans Trumpet Tax Cuts" (Feb. 18): It will surprise few that the Republicans now seek to buy back

(Opinion, Feb. 17) by E.J. Dionne

the respect of the American electorate with a tax cut that would (also no surprise) make rich Republicans richer and otherwise do nothing of significance for any-If the budget surplus were ap-

plied to bootstrapping povertylevel Americans in the manner of the postwar GI Bill, it could give new hope to millions while adding to the vibrancy of an already pros-JOE WILLIAMS.

Düsseldorf.

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Parisans

بالسائلة بالمهيز

servative Christians to abandon their activist political role. But the next day he told CNN, "We're not surrendering — we're opening a different front."

In fact, if Christian conservatives choose to abandon

'de facto state in northern Iraq, but

Budapest.

to satisfy the Kurds' just demands

Regarding "Look What a Fraction of This Arms Money Could Do" (Opinion, Feb. 17) by Oscar

Pleasanton, California.

Maria de la Companya
the affair

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THE REAL PROPERTY.

Crosscultural Tunes For an Iraqi Oboist

Music Reflects His Venture Into the West

By Mike Zwerin onal Herald Tribun

in his eyes. "My mother could restore the people who were surrounding him virginity to troubled young women by and said: 'Please. I am a musician, I play treating them with chicken intestines. in the orchestra here, and I have a schol-This is true. I never say anything that is arship to go to Warsaw. But the new law not true. It was miraculous."

Basra being a busy port, Fawzy was intrigued by all the foreigners he saw as a child, and by the many sorts of music he heard. He was introduced to the making of music at age 14 when one of his teachers played the violin while visiting

The man's face was burned, he had had an accident, it was not pretty. Sud-denly, however, it turned beautiful right in front of Fawzy's eyes. The music made it beautiful. Fawzy said to himself, "I want to make music, too."

He decided to become a singer. You do not have to learn an instrument to be a singer. There was a private club in Basra where musicians gave concerts. Only rich people could afford to belong. When he went to look it over one day, he was denied admission until he told the man at the door that the club's president

Later, the president looked him up to ask what was going on. "I lied," Fawzy admitted. "But I really want to be a musician. Please give me a chance." The president offered Fawzy a Coca-

The first time he sang with an or-chestra, Fawzy felt swept away as though by a tidal wave. "My boy," he was told, "you must study and practice and then come back." When he asked his parents to help him to study music, they refused.

So he went to Baghdad on his own and registered to study traditional oriental music at the conservatory. He was not allowed to study the lute because, he was told, his fingers were too short. For some reason he never quite understood, he was given an oboe instead. Fawzy became, as he put it, a "brilliant student" of the oboe. Four happy years later, thanks to his Czech woodwind teacher, he was

offered a scholarship in Warsaw.

Just then, in 1968, there was a coup

izens to leave the country. Fawzy tells the story in a breezy, light-hearted fash-

ARIS — Fawzy al Aiedy grew "I was the oboist in the Radio Bagh-up in a solid brick house in the dad orchestra. When the new ruler, Sad-Iraqi port of Basra, the son of a dam Hussein, came for a broadcast, I railroad worker and a sorceress. summoned up all my courage and took "Poof!" Fawzy exclaimed, mischief my life in my hands. I pushed through does not allow me to leave. I beg you, make an exception for me. Let me go. I can serve our country and our culture through music.'

"'No problem, my boy, Saddam said," according to Fawzy. "Give your papers to the director of Radio Baghdad and have him forward them to me. Do not worry. You will be able to go and study music in Europe. I will see to the

matter myself, personally."

Fawzy did as he was told. One week later he was informed of his induction into the Iraqi Army. Trying to avoid military service took

three months and was to no avail. When he finally showed up, he found that his papers had been stamped "deserter." 'The sky is falling on my head,' he told the commander of the base. "I am a musician, not a deserter."

Once more, he found himself begging the authorities for help. This time he was luckier. The commander crossed out spent his military service playing Handel for the officers in between learning how to fire his rifle.

swing rhythms and European instruction, he has built a unique and how to fire his rifle.

Kong, he looked down. What was life there like now, he wondered. Would he ever see his homeland again?

how to fire his rifle.

Deeply moved by an Arabic translation of the poetry of Arthur Rimbaud, he dreamed of France. After his army halls in which he is booked. Sponsored service, he finessed a passport, and in 1971 he came to Paris. Here he discovered the real meaning of freedom and North Africa. the music of Georges Brassens, John Coltrane and Leonard Cohen.

He continued his oboe studies at the Conservatory of Boulogne Billancourt, which awarded him a prize upon graduation. His first album was on the erudite label Chant du Monde, and he has since recorded many others. His most recent is 'Chansons Pour Enfants'' (Children's He sings, in Arabic, and plays the lute

and the oboe. The oboe together with the



by the Alliance Française, he has toured extensively in Europe, the Gulf and

HEN Iraqi authorities in France pressed him to return home to serve his country in its war with Iran, he said he had nothing against the Ira-nian people. After which he took French citizenship. Both of his parents were killed in an Iranian bombardment of

While the Gulf War was still on the front pages, an American promoter in Just then, in 1968, there was a coup d'état. The Ba'ath Party came to power. A law was passed forbidding Iraqi cit
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Fawzy was sure that the American promoter had programmed his American-Iraqi musical mix at least in part to protest against the war. It was, in his opinion, a political act, and he was pleased to be part of it. He filled a large theater three nights in a row. Since he performed his crosscultural music there, he was told, Chinese groups in Hong Kong have been imitating him

He lives in the countryside — "real country," he emphasized — between the eastern end of Paris and Disney-

When he invites people to his home he offers them "everything so that they will feel completely comfortable and well," he said. "Just like when I am on stage I

Thai Theater Gets Center Stage

By Thomas Crampton International Herald Tribune

ANGKOK - Devastated by Thai contemporary performing arts will receive renewed vigor onth with Bangkok's first Fringe led to encourage local productions and movie imports from Hong Kong and Hollywood.

On Sunday, the Golden Doll film awards in Bangkok were selected from just 11 nominees, a small fraction of the next month with Bangkok's first Fringe

Intended to encourage local productions and original scriptwriting, the fes-tival will focus on how Thailand can maintain a distinct artistic identity against an onslaught of Western drama, dance and music.

"Children now learn pop songs in kindergarten and the only drama they see is on bad-quality television shows. This is leading to the second of is leading to a very real Thai identity crisis," said Paravadi Mejudhon, whose theater is hosting the festival. "By encouraging contemporary theater we hope people can dig back into their own roots and then keep alive Thai-ness in performances dealing with modern

At present there is very little original contemporary theater in Thailand.

Patravadi's theater produces plays based exclusively on poetry from Thai literature, while the handful of other theaters in Bangkok concentrate heavily on works translated from foreign languages.

guages.

The rest of the Thai theater scene consists primarily of itinerant troupes performing traditional musical folk tales at rural fairs and highly stylized productions of classical Thai drama at the

National Theater. Although there are no established theater festivals, the fringe moniker was applied in order to emphasize the event's concentration on creative contemporary

drama rather than the standard fare of traditional or imported works. "There is such little experience in theater that we are starting right now from a very low base," Patravadi said. "Only in the last two years or so has any

original contemporary drama been produced again." The golden era of contemporary Thai theater came out of aristocratic patronage of Western classics that began early this century during the reign of the Euro-

pean-educated King Rama VI.
Having started with Shakespeare and Moliere in translation, by the 1950s the likes of Prince Phanupan Yukol and others were writing original works that combined Thai-style movements and music with performances in Westernstyle theaters. But the prince and the and music performances. thrust of Thai performing arts were soon

the 1970s popular actors performed in up to a dozen movies per month as national production peaked at more than 100 films a year. But the local film industry was in turn undermined by a combi-

number up for competition a decade

"It is still too early to call this eblooming of theater," Patravadi said blooming of theater, Patravadi said but for the first time in 50 years we are now seeing people start to drop the Brecht and begin to produce their own scripts on Thai subjects.'

The Fringe Festival will include more

than 30 original productions performed at her outdoor theater, which sits directly across the river from Bangkok's Grand

Fach of the seven weekends will focus three full days of lectures, exhibitions and performances on themes regarding Thai theater's links with modern audi-

HE opening weekend dedicated to the future development of Thai drama, begins with "48 Hours of Literature," a comedy based on a book by Win Leowarin about a novelist forced to write soap operas for television.

The second weekend, which examines Western influence on the Eastern stage, features "Retrospective Voice," an original play based on an old Asian legend about a woman who emerges from the sea with an ability to see into the distant past. The performance features

Western-style dance.
Focused on the theater's role in Thai society, the fourth week includes an improvisation based around a news clip-

ping from a recent paper.

"Even if it takes a few years to convince audiences to come through the traffic jams." Patravadi said, "theater can act as a school to improve television to the part and directors find by helping performers and directors find their Thai identity. With no original drama from our own period, how can we possibly understand ourselves?"

The Bangkok Fringe Festival runs
each Friday through Sunday from
March 12 through April 25. Tickets, etc.

150 baht (about \$4), include admission to exhibitions, seminars and main stage performances. All plays and lectures are in Thai, but there are numerous dance

For more information, contact Khun swept up by cinema. Mo at Patravadi Theater at (662) 4/2-The theaters soon disappeared, and by 7287 or 4/2-7288.

BOOKS

SOUTH OF THE BORDER, WEST OF THE SUN

BY Haruki Murakami. Translated from Japanese by Philip Gabriel. 213 pages. S22. Knopf.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Ward

HARUKI MURAKAMI'S frans, fresh from the 600-page labyrinth of whirnsy and nightmare that was "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle." are in for a surprise with this slight romantic effusion. About the only continuity between the two books - or indeed between this and any of Murakami's earlier, quirkier novels — is their signature fascination with all things Western.

"South of the Border, West of the Sun" is a line from Nat King Cole, and the rest of the novel unfurls as expected into the familiar Murakami vision of a great Japanese metropolis collectively humming along to Duke Ellington while tooling down the expressway in its BMW. The obsession with brand-name cachet is indeed a central facet of modern Japanese life, intensified if anything by the phantom recession, and nobody captures its oddly serious mindlessness better than Murakami. That flavor is a big part of what one reads him for. But it is obviously not all. Equally addictive are the glimpses he offers of the darkness behind the neon-lit facade, the strange anxieties that trouble the heart of a rich, conformist

The problem with "South

sion, nostalgia, passion, posthe mind are here, right enough, but they have about

that tawdry row of nouns. What happened? Love is what. Murakami has attempted to capture illegitimate passion's elusive madness, but like so many before him, from heavy-breathing teenage diarists to the authors of the Starr report (his prose is variously reminiscent of both), he falls short. In the face of the biggest mystery of all, lan-

The story line is straight as a shot from Cupid's bow. keeps Hajime, the narrator — the usual likable, decent, conlike himself, Shimamoto was 'precocious," with lovely smile," although she had a lame leg (why?).

"Something about her expression pulled people in." But the two lonely children were still "fragmentary be-ings," and life's twists and turns inevitably separated "Even after we them. stopped seeing each other, though, I thought of her with great fondness.

There are no prizes for guessing that, after years apart (during which Hajime selfishly betrays a teenage girlfriend's trust, desultorily attends college, stews for a of the Border, West of the few years in a boring job, Sun' is that these depths and marries a nice girl and beshadows - the elements that comes a successful bar owner

render Murakami's elaborate in a ritzy part of Tokyo), Shi-speak, in a triple whammy of fantasies three-dimensional mamoto reappears. No sur- sexual, murderous and sui-- are missing here except in prises, either, in the revela- cidal passion. Unfortunately, the most parodic form. This tion that she is now suitably considering the depths of not nearly enough. Obses- this particularly vapid word may represent the translator's session: All the dark forces of failure of imagination, but its irritating repetition can only be the author's.) She has even as much substance as the had her bad leg fixed, remov-cheap perfumes suggested by ing her single "flaw." Out of all the bars in Tokyo, she has to walk into Hairne's one rainy night shattering at a stroke his comfortable but of

course "hollow and mean-

ingless" life as a husband.

father and successful businessman. Dormant memories spring to life. Obsession en-Since this is Murakami. naturally the obsession has to be complicated by a little mystery. What secret trauma admittedly, with the bystandthe impeccably groomed and gorgeous Shimamoto from committing hero -- begins by recalling ceptive Hajime? Why does his childhood friendship with she keep disappearing, and

science-stricken Murakami herself to the obviously rea girl he sensed, even then. why won't she explain where was "special." An only child she's been or what has a helpful point of view. happened to her? The mys-"a tery of Shimamoto's silence

which Murakami's prose here descends ("It's lovely. Hajime ... I want to enjoy looking at your body first, touching and licking it as much as I want to"), only the lust is consummated. One might almost have preferred the murder. Easily the most admirable

character in the novel is Hajime's long-suffering but quietly shrewd wife, Yukiko. When Yukiko finally comes up trumps in the end, one finds oneself wondering why her husband ever preferred Shimamoto's sugary creepiness to her own tart intelligence. That's how it often is in life. ers to a collapsing marriage looking on the errant spouse's new beloved with amazed contempt. But for a novel that clearly sets out to illuminate a world-shattering passion from the inside, that is hardly

Elizabeth Ward, an editor deepens and deepens until the at the Japan Times, wrote this whole thing climaxes, so to for The Washington Post.

3 BLIND MAN'S BLUFF. by Sherry Soniag and Christopher Drew with

Sonny and Cher: The Beat Stops Here

By Caryn James

vanilla wafer. That's what nocence is a tougher sell today. happens to Sonny Bono in "And the Beat Goes On: The Sonny and Cher their bangs and singing "I Got You Story," a foolishly reverential ABC Babe" on the pseudo-hip television television drama about two people who, in their pop-star moment, wore furry starring in Las Vegas and in their own vests and orange bell-bottoms. Nothing about that joined-at-the-hip team was nearly as fascinating as its afterlife.

In their separate reinventions, she became a superstar, the line that goes from Cher to Roseanne to Madonna revels in the kaleidoscopic self. Stranger still, he became a congressman; the line that goes from Ronald Reagan to Sonny Bono to Jesse (the Body) Ventura breaks down the evanescent border between celebrity and politics.

Their solo lives are outside the scope of this bland film, though, which fo-

gests none of the savvy or cynicism that scrappy, no-talent guy. Some people is a basic element of pop celebrity and have that impression of his career, but EW YORK — In the cult of image making. It turns the Sonny and surely it's a fluke here. the dead celebrity, everyone Cher story into a Mickey Rooney-Judy who dies comes back as a Garland movie, but such on-screen in-

One day Sonny and Cher are shaking CBS comedy-variety show, with a new shtick: Cher constantly insults Sonny. Then, big surprise, they divorce.

The film fails to take advantage of its priceless opportunities for camp-classic status, despite glimmers of unintended wit at the start. It begins with a re-enactment of Sonny and Cher's late-'80s reunion on David Letterman's show. The story then unfolds in flashback.

As Sonny, Jay Underwood tries to capture the nasal whine. (The credit

cuses on their rise to stardom yet sug- nose.) But he comes across as a

It takes one word of dialogue to see that Renee Faia has captured Cher with drop-dead accuracy. "Hi," she says when she meets Sonny, her voice dripping with dismissive wit. This shrewd imitation is wasted in what should have been called "Sonny's Story."

Together or apart, Sonny and Cher were never musical geniuses. Still, the buoyant music (a mix of authentic Sonny and Cher recordings and soundalikes) adds what little energy the film

In a coda, "And the Beat Goes On" ends with clips of the real Sonny Bono, shown with Newt Gingrich and, from an earlier phase, onstage in a sequined tuxedo. As some weird manifestation of the American dream, it's hard to top that transformation. Sidestepping the truly intriguing questions, this movie "prosthetic makeup" means Sonny's turns the star's life into goo.

Hands Across the Water at the RSC

By Sheridan Morley

ONDON - Although I am extremely concerned about the possibility that the Royal Shakespeare Company is in a serious midlife artistic and managerial breakdown. I can still credit the RSC with what I believe is its greatest achievement in contemporary theater: sustained support over 10 plays and 20 years of the American dramatist Richard Nelson.

He remains, even in his own country, without much other honor, very few Nelson plays (unless you count "Two Shakespearean Actors" LONDON and the revisions he did to the THEATER "Two Shakespearean Actors" American book of the Tim Rice-Abba musical "Chess") have ever had a Broadway life, and over here we seem happier with the more immediately identifi-

able work of a David Marnet or Sam Shepard. Like his great contemporaries Terrence McNally and A.R. Gurney, Nelson often gets becalmed in mid-Atlantic; unlike them, he writes almost exclusively about Anglo-American attitudes and his latest work, "Goodnight Children Everywhere" (into the Barbican Pit from Stratford), starts in classic Nelson style with an English teenager returning home to South London in the spring of 1945 after a five-year wartime evacuation to Canada

Nelson seems to be revisiting J.B. Priestley's "Laburnum Grove" through the eyes of a postwar Chekhov, and if that ambitious plan doesn't entirely succeed. Nelson's semi-failures are as always far more intriguing than the hits of many of his rivals.

boy, hauntingly and hesitatingly played by a hugely impressive newcomer, Si-mon Scardifield, returns home to discover that his three sisters have been changed by the war as much if not more than he has; one (Sarah Markland) has become a nurse, another (Cathryn Bradshaw) has married an unfaithful doctor old enough to be her father, and the third (Robin Weaver) has become an actress desperate to trade her sexual favors for any kind of a stage role.

Nelson's belief here is that surviving

the peace could be as difficult as surviving the war; his onstage characters may not have been bomb-damaged, but they are psychologically and sexually disturbed to such an extent that incest, infidelity and discreet prostitution have all taken over a household that, pre-1939, was a bas-

tion of moral virtues. Ian Brown's production (on a set by Tim Hatley) wonderfully captures what Moss Hart once called the dark brown taste of genteel poverty. These people are not starving in a gutter, they mostly have jobs, but there is still a tin bath in the living room and they have to pool their ration coupons to make a welcomehome cake for the prodigal son. Priestley and Noel Coward, in their Thirties plays about suburban households in revolt, are the ghosts who haunt Nelson's Clapham flat, but his central interest is in lost souls who were destroyed because the crucial years of their crossover from childhood to maturity play about incest still retains a curiously own.

Not a lot happens in "Goodnight shocking power, but "Goodnight Children Everywhere," a title taken dren Everywhere" is about much more from a classic BBC wartime tune. The

I have long believed Nelson to be among the greatest dramatists of his generation. He does not always make it easy on an audience, but he is always ready to explore yet one more wave, one more tempest sometimes, on the trans-Atlantic crossing. There is a remarkable kind of poetry, here that is not to all tastes, but if you want a complete postwar history of what has gone wrong with the hands across the sea, you can start and end it with the Nelson touch.

At a time when both the Hampstead
Theatre and the Donmar Warehouse are launching brief new-writers series, I terest. It is my belief that no major dramatist has ever emerged from any such season and that all too often the ambrella concept merely shelters a few plays that would never make it in less well-protected surroundings.

Sure enough, the play that kicks off the Hampstead season ("Falling" by David Eldridge) is a weirdly soap-operatic little account of a man recovering from a mugging in a hospital ward, only to find that his relatives and well-wishers are still more damaged than he is. A series of well-signaled plot twists just about sustain the play's minimal energy and interest, and the author may have a future writing episodes of a long-run-ning radio or TV series about suburban angst. But a quick look at, say, "Whose Life Is It Anyway?" would have taught him a good deal about how to construct bedside dramas and then keep them going into the recovery period. "Falling" were denied them because of the war. A badly needs a life-support machine all its

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Fed Stays Upbeat On U.S. Economy

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Doing what others dare not

By Mitchell Martin

NEW YORK - The U.S. economy is on track for a ninth year of expansion, though with modestly higher inflation than in the past two years, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday, and he indicated that the central bank was inclined to neither raise nor lower

In the first of two days of his semiannual testimony to-Congress, Mr. Greenspan said "the fundamental un-derpinnings of the recent U.S. economic performance are strong," offering the Fed's prediction that the gross domestic product would grow by between 2.5 percent and 3 percent this year, with consumer prices rising between 2 percent and 2.5 percent.

The new growth estimate exceeds both the range of 2 percent to 2.5 percent that the Fed predicted six months ago and the Clinton administration's forecast of 2.0 percent. In 1998, the U.S. economy expanded about 4 percent with consumer prices rising 1.6 percent after a 1.7 percent rise in 1997. The inflation forecast seemed to quash any remaining hopes that the Fed would reduce interest rates, as it did three times last year, according to Josh Stiles, U.S. bond analyst at Independent Economic Analysis (Holdings) Ltd.

One cautionary statement that could concern investors. Mr. Stiles said, was that commodity prices, especially those for energy, were unlikely to commute the downward spiral

that kept inflation in check last year.

"These prices," Mr. Greenspan testified, "are not likely to fall further, and they could begin to rise as some Asian economies revive and the effects of the net depreciation of the dollar since mid-summer are felt more strongly." But he also said that "recent experience does seem to suggest that the economy has become less inflation-prone than in the past, so that the chances of an inflationary breakont arguably are, at least for now, less than they would have been under similar conditions in earlier cycle

Despite his generally upbeat comments, Mr. Greenspan did say that the economy appeared "stretched in a number of dimensions, implying considerable upside and downside risks to the economic outlook." The central bank, therefore, must be "ready to move quickly in either direction," he said, raising interest rates if necessary to head off inflation or reducing them to prevent a recession.

Mr. Stiles suggested that some of the cantionary com-ments in Mr. Greenspan's testimony had been included to appease members of the Fed Board and its policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee who are more concerned with the threat of inflation than the Fed chairman is.

Mr. Greenspan spent a fair amount of his testimony explaining why technological advances had increased the productivity of the U.S. economy. He said this improved efficiency was one reason companies could maintain their profits even though they could not easily raise prices. Technological improvements "clearly explain a good part" of the low inflation experienced in recent years, he said in response to a question after his testimony.



Lawrence Summers, the U.S. deputy Treasury secretary, meeting reporters Tuesday in Beijing after talks with Chinese officials.

U.S. and China Seek WTO Pact

Despite Obstacles, Officials Strive for an April Announcement

By Erik Eckholm New York Times Service

BEIJING - With newfound political drive, the United States and China have resumed intense negotiations over China's entry into the World Trade Organization, hoping against the odds to be able to announce a breakthrough when Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visits Washington in April, American officials

said Tuesday.

Last year, after fruitless talks,

American trade officials seemed to have given up on China soon joining the global body that sets trading rules. In sharply critical terms, they said China was too consumed by domestic economic ills to make concessions such as reducing tariffs and opening more sectors to foreign in-

The obstacles remain enormous. but the two governments are now making a crash effort to resolve issues that have defied agreement for

"The United States has a great interest in China acceding to the WTO on commercially viable terms," said the deputy secretary of the Treasury, Lawrence Summers, speaking to reporters Tuesday evening after meeting Mr. Zhu.

He said Mr. Zhu also had reaffirmed China's strong desire to reach an accommodation

"We both agreed that this was

ican officials during 1998.

While an agreement is not close, Chinese officials have concluded "a more open, more competitive, more dynamic economy" is in China's interest, Mr. Summers said. "I think there may be some greater

appreciation of that on the Chinese

side," he said. Mr. Summers, who is briefly visiting Beijing in a trip through Asia, did not engage in negotiations. But a senior official of the U.S. Trade Representative's Office has already

undertaken detailed talks here. Next Wednesday, right after a vis-it by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who will discuss a range of one reason for the new sense of issues with Chinese officials, the urgency, Mr. Summers said, is the chief trade negotiator, Charlene Barshefsky, will arrive for two days of talks.

After Ms. Barshefsky's visit, officials said, it will be easier to judge whether the new push has any chance of success.

It is unclear how the wide difcomplex issues as access to the giant such as China. Chinese market for agricultural and industrial goods and high-end services such as insurance and fi-

China, while committed to gradual opening of the economy, is more worried than ever about rising un-

crucial window of opportunity," employment and is struggling to re-Mr. Summers said, his hopeful tone vamp state industries that could be in striking contrast to that of Amer- killed by quickly lowered trade bar-

> President Bill Clinton's administration, for its part, would come under strong attack from business and political opponents if it appeared to grant too many concessions to China, which by American estimates last year ran a \$57 billion trade surplus with the United

> "It's by no means clear that a mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached," Mr. Summers said. "But there is a feeling on both sides that we shouldn't miss an agreement because of a failure of communications or a lack of effort."

> realization that if agreement cannot be reached in the next few months, China's entry to the trade body is likely to face long delays.

This year, the world organization will begin to rewrite its overall rules, a move that if anything will stiffen the conditions for entry and ferences can be bridged over such complicating a new application by a

Also, as American presidential politics heat up next year, it may be impossible to muster domestic support for any complex agreement with China, officials fear.

SeeWTO, Page 12

Politics Hamper Malaysian Banking System, Moody's Says ic measures. Despite past scandals region, has been impaired by polit-involving speculative currency tradical interference as well as an added ulations and increasing transpar-

KUALA LUMPUR - An international credit-rating agency delivered a blistering critique of the Malaysian government Tuesday,

saying that political interference was impairing the quality of its financial regulation, which used to be among the highest in Asia. In a special report, Moody's In-

Malaysian banking system itself had 'taken a sharp turn for the worse' because of the "direct and indirect effects" of capital and currency controls that Malaysia imposed last

ing, the Malaysian central bank had traditionally provided a sound framework "efficiently enforced by an authoritative and respected institution," Moody's said.

But the system has become 'overfragmented' with too many banks that are both small and weak. vestors Service Inc. also said the the American rating concern said, adding that the central bank had allowed "improdently large lending" for property development and securities purchases.

"The quality of bank regulation, September as well as other econom- formerly among the highest in the have moved from strengthening the

emphasis on short-term gains," the report said.

Moody's said more overt interference had "clashed with the bank's tradition of independence," leading to the resignation of the govemor and his deputy last August, followed by the arrest next month and current trial of the former finance minister and deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim.

"Developments in bank regulation have shadowed these events," Moody's said. "The objectives But Moody's said this was not likely

ency to requiring the banks to sustain economic activity almost at any price, their financial condition becoming a secondary concern."

Moody's said the planning efforts of the central bank had become an 'inevitable hostage to political for-

It conceded that efforts to acquire bad loans and recapitalize banks may provide indications of a restoration of the central bank's historic anthority and independence."

developments in Malaysia run their course. The report noted some "impor-

tant fundamental strengths" such as management, which it said was 'quite conservative, skilled and competent" at many banks.

Consolidation being forced by the government is likely to produce institutions that are "larger and better structured and hence more stable and probably more conservative," it added. Profitability is also "quite strong" already, and "the quality of the system's regulation and inspection may revert to former high stan-'until critically important political dards,' Moody's said.

Crisis at E*Trade: A Cautionary Tale

little tolerance, a reality

that was slammed home

at E*Trade this month.

Software Glitch Reveals Vulnerability of Popular Internet Brokerages

Vashington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The chief technology officer was working on 90 minutes' sleep, an abbreviated night even by her three-hour norm. Now, shortly after the stock market opened, Debra Chrapaty was seeing red on her monitor, and

not buy or sell stocks through E*Trade Group Inc., the Internet brokerage whose computing operations she directed. She took a Tagemet pill to soothe her ulcer.

morning. Her beeper pierced the for-mality with the Code Red news and Mrs. The Internet engenders

were locked out of their on-line portfolios as the stock market was dropping

in heavy trading. Every second E*Trade
'Did you buy any Yahoo! today?,' "said
did not work could threaten its viability. Internet time is Jerry Gramaglia, E*Trade's vice president of marketing. "We

forum! "or you're going to the E-Grave."

The Internet engenders little tolerance when problems occur, a reality that was slammed home at E*Trade this month. On-line services now are perceived as utilities and com-

As the Internet has bred exhibitation, user expectations likewise have soured, and when something goes wrong, look

Yet over parts of three days, E*Trade was laid bare as a public microcosm of Internet frailty. It also became a cor-

former State Department intern, headed damage control from

"We need to perform with militaristic excellence," Ms. Chrapaty, invoking the preferred imagery of the chief executive, Christos Cotsakos, a Vietnam War veteran who

E*Trade is one of the emerging Internet brands to invade contemporary lives, a dual product of the on-line boom and raging bull market. Now the third-largest Internet brokerage, E*Trade processes 60,000 trades a day. Some subscribers

Unless subscribers see only "Error" messages Which is why, on that Wednesday, Ms. Chrapaty's eyes were fixed on a hideous number. Her monitor revealed

E*Trade's "transaction per second" ratio was well below ormal — and dropping fast. She deduced access problems.

Ms. Chrapaty called in her "super-smarts," a team of eight ers who would root out the cause of the interruption.

It took 30 minutes to isolate the problem, a software appraide performed the night before. E*Trade technicians had added lines of computer "code" to speed the process by

But instead, the new coding infected the site with a most toxic side effect: No one could trade.

service interruption had nothing to do with site volume, Mrs.

See E*TRADE, Page 16

By Mark Leibovich

red meant crisis. It meant hundreds of thousands of on-line investors could

Meanwhile, in a Silicon Valley schoolyard, Lisa Nash, the

Nash kissed her daughters good-bye. On Wednesday, Feb. 3, one of the Internet's highest fliers was effectively grounded by a software glitch. E*Trade's 700,000 account holders

unforgiving, and so are subscribers with money at stake. "Get offer the empowerment and thrill of being wired to Wall it together, E*Trade," a subscriber railed in an on-line chat

modities, not luxuries. In short order, subscribers have come to demand light-switch reliability when they tap their keypads, never mind the unfathomably complex technology underpinning those commands.

urt. Already, two class-action lawsuits have been filed against E*Trade in conjunction with this month's breakdowns. "Technology fails, and anyone who promises otherwise is full of it." Ms. Chrapaty said, "Things happen on any given day. My job is not to let our customers notice."

porate case study of crisis management in the Internet age, the

perate side of the exhilaration. Ms. Chrapaty and Mrs. Nash were steeped in the ordeal: Ms.

Chrapaty, 38, a former technology chief for the National Baskethall Association, led the high-tech paramedics from E*Trade's offices in Alpharetta, Georgia, Mrs. Nash, 40, a the company's headquarters in Palo Alto, California.

was awarded the Purple Heart.

E*Trade communications chief, was pledging allegiance to have given up their jobs to ride the gamblers' surge of "day the flag, a rimal she performs with her two daughters every trading," tying fortunes to the stock market and seizing some

control of its fluctuations through E*Trade. They pay nothing to subscribe and keep a minimum \$1,000 trading balance in their accounts. E*Trade re-ceives \$14.95 or \$19.95 commissions on each trade, depending on where the stock is listed. Traditional brokerages typically charge twice that.
"Good morning is being replaced by

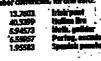
They laid out the symptoms, analyzed abnormalities and ate Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

which subscribers had their trades confirmed.

Mrs. Nash, during a telephone conference that morning, 'talking points'' for customer and media inquiries. This

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Global Private Banking

AT REPUBLIC, MANAGING YOUR ASSETS IS A DIALOGUE, NOT A MONOLOGUE.



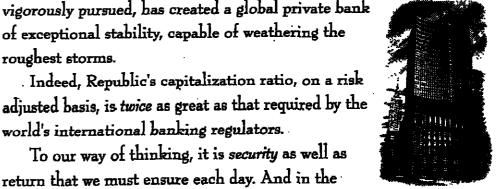
In fact, we consider asset management a team effort, with you as the key member of that team. Your particular financial needs, your objectives, help us determine the winning strategy. Our fundamental goal: to protect your capital as we safeguard its

purchasing power. It is a simple principle upon which we base our brand of financial conservatism: private banking built

upon rigor, discipline and prudence. This sophisticated conservatism,

vigorously pursued, has created a global private bank of exceptional stability, capable of weathering the roughest storms.

world's international banking regulators. To our way of thinking, it is security as well as return that we must ensure each day. And in the process, to provide a unique quality of service, understanding and discretion.



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Republic National Bank of New York Strength. Security. Service.

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C Republic National Bank of New York, 1998

Very briefly:

 Adelphia Communications Corp., a U.S. cable-television operator, agreed to buy closely held Frontier Vision Partners LP for \$2.1 billion in cash, shares and assumed debt to expand its customer base

 America West Airlines Inc. called off talks with other airlines and said it would remain independent. The decision ended four weeks of speculation that it might be bought by United Airlines or another large rival.

CalEnergy Co., the second-largest U.S. power-plant developer, agreed to sell half of its interests in 14 generators to El

Paso Energy Corp. for \$259.6 million. • Cia. Cervejaria Brahma of Brazil fired 108 workers, or 1 percent of the brewer's work force, as the company sought to

cut costs amid a deepening recession.

• Codelco of Chile, the world's largest copper producer, plans to trim costs as much as \$180 million and raise production this year to make up for reduced earnings caused by copper prices that are near 12-year lows.

With Steel Cheap, GM to Stock Up nberg News

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. said Tuesday it had signed long-term contracts for \$11.7 billion in steel from about 40 suppliers in what it called a move toward a global standard for the company aimed at lowering costs.

By signing the contracts now, GM is taking advantage of slumping metal prices. Benchmark U.S. steel prices have dropped about 20 percent in the past year, according to Metal Bulletin Ltd. John Stiles, executive director of metals purchasing, said the global standard would end regional differences in the quality and content of the steel in its cars. "This is the first time we've gone after all the steel on a global basis and had the opportunities for mills around the world to take a look at our global requirements," he said.

Greenspan Gives a Lift To the Dollar

NEW YORK - The dollar rose against the euro Tuesday, touching its strongest level yet against the new currency, as Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said U.S. economic growth had strong momentum.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The Fed chief, in semiannual testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, also said that inflation remained at bay but that officials were prepared to raise or lower interest rates quickly if the country's coolest." economy grew too quickly or too slowly.

Higher rates help a currency by raising its money-market return, and lower rates would have the opposite

'Since the U.S. economy remains strong and may be overstretched, Greenspan might be suggesting the Fed may need to raise rates," said Andrew Chaveriat, a currency strategist at Paribas Corp.
As a result, "the dollar could go igher later this week," he said.

In late trading, the euro eased to \$1.1007 from \$1.1037 late Monday in New York Earlier, it dropped as low as \$1.0940, the currency's weakest level since its initial rate was set

The dollar also edged up to 120.92 yen from 120.90 yen but fell to 1.4477 Swiss francs from 1.4493

The pound slipped to \$1.6150

What Is Hip? Levi Strauss Is Trying to Get a Grip By Stephanie Stoughton Washington Post Service company also has missed marketing company also has missed and company also has missed and company also has misse

WASHINGTON - To understand why Levi Strauss & Co. has begun to falter, look no further than the names on teenagers' jeans.

After riding a wave of success for much of the 1990s, the manufacturer is getting bloodied by the likes of the Gap, Tommy Hilfiger and Fubu. Though Levi's is still synonymous with blue jeans, it has lost touch with many of its customers, including teenagers who view its staple straightlegged denims as something their baby-boomer parents and even grandparents would wear.

"Everyone has a pair of Levi's, including their parents." said Jill Kilcoyne, an associate research director with Teenage Research Unlimited in Northbrook, Illinois. "There are so many other jeans available that give them the fashion hand look that teenagers want. Teens want to own their own brand, they want the newest and the

Fickle youth probably accounts for a good

Although Levi's Silver Tab jeans and Dockers casual pants are still hot brands, overall the manufacturer's star is clearly slipping. Sales steadily climbed from \$4.9 billion in 1991 to \$7.1 billion in 1996 but began to taper off the fol-lowing year. Revenue fell 3 percent, to \$6.9 billion, in 1997 and then dropped another 13 percent, to \$6 billion, last year. On Monday, Levi Strauss, which began making blue jeans for gold miners more than a century ago, said it would close 11 of its 22 North American plants and lay off 5.900 workers.

In surveys by Teenage Research Unlimited, teenagers ranked Levi's as one of their three favorite brands until last year, when the manufacturer tumbled to No. 8.

The seeds of Levi Strauss's troubles were planted earlier in the decade when the company, still enjoying booming sales, began missing trends. First, it did not predict the popularity of portion of the sales drop. But the closely held baggy jeans. Then it did not foresee the low-rise, when everyone likes you.

"There's certainly validity in what many of our critics have said, that we were completent," a Levi Stranss spokesman, Clarence Grebey, said.

Some of Levi's problems may be beyond the company's control. Unlike Gap, Levi's cannot force retailers such as J.C. Penney to carry a broad selection of its merchandise. Department stores have made matters worse for Levi's by dedicating large sections to their own in-house brands. That is one reason why Levi executives felt little guilt when they opened their own Internet site selling the full Levi's line but banned retailers from selling Levi's on-line.

One reason it is difficult to make a tired brand hip again is that the company's name is every-where at a time when youths want something that sets them apart from the crowd, said Larry McNanghton, chief operating officer of Corporate Branding Partnership LLC. Like Nike Inc., Levi's has found that you're not so cool

Technology Stocks Surge, but Blue Chips Stall

NEW YORK - Stock prices were mixed Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, signaled that the central bank was not planning any imminent changes in interest rates. But technology stocks continued to rise.

dard & Poor's 500 index was down 0.96 at that its index of U.S. consumer confidence ros Stock Exchange

'As far as the stock market is concerned, the good news is that Greenspan said economic growth will continue at a somewhat slower rate." said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Fargo Bank. Because inflation is expected to remain in check, there is "little likelihood that Tuesday, with blue-chip shares languishing after he's going to be raising or lowering interest rates anytime soon."

U.S. STOCKS

At the close, the Dow Iones industrial average

Stocks took little direction from a report by the was down 8.26 points at 9,544.42, and the Stan-Conference Board, a business research group, 1,271.18. But the Nasdaq composite index was 3.2 points to 132.1 in February, its fourth straight up 34.36 at 2,376.37. Declining issues led adadvance, as Americans reacted to continued ecovancers by a ratio of 4-to-3 on the New York nomic growth and showed a strong sense of security about the job market.

Internet and computer shares rallied after an analyst at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., Mary Meeker, said the long-term outlook was "phenomenal" for top companies in the sector.

Microsoft rose 65% to 155 7/16. Amazon.com gained 8% to 115%, Yahoo rose 7% to 152%, and eBay climbed 31/4 to 2821/4.

America Online was up 11/4 at 881/4 after a 2for-1 stock split took effect. Meanwhile, the prices of Treasury securities fell, with the benchmark 30-year bond down

Stocks took little direction from a report by the 31/32 at 97 15/32, pushing the yield up to 5.42 percent from 5.38 percent. (AP, Bloomberg) ■ Longer Hours Planned for Big Board

Richard Grasso, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, said the exchange planned to expand its hours in June 2000 to compete with overseas exchanges in trading of non-U.S. shares, Bloomberg News reported from New York. "It is not unreasonable to expect the Big Board to open at 5 A.M. and close at midnight," he said.

EURO: German Officials Link the Currency's Health to Ability of EU Members to Agree on Budget

Tuesday to defend the EU's complex and costly system of agricultural subsidies and price supports.

Farmers are holding one of the biggest protests in more than 25 years in the Belgian capital as EU agriculture ministers are meeting there this week to find a compromise to overhaul the 37-year-old Common Agricultural Policy. The volume of money involved is adding to the pressure in the talks, creating the prospect that some countries

could lose EU funds. The powerful farm lobby

Tuesday, Feb. 23

budget eats up half of the from "speaking of the con-EU's 85 billion euro budget. sequences" of a "non-solu-Subsidies on some farm com-tion," an official said. Failure modities could shrink by a to overhaul the budget could quarter and even push some unleash a "crisis in which all farms into bankruptcy, with of us are worse off after-French farmers the hardest hit wards," the official said, rebecause they are the biggest ferring to fears of unconrecipients. Striking a deep trolled euro weakness. chord, farmers fear the cuts will threaten Europe's romantic agrarian idyll, displacing bucolic fields with mass-

According to the German Bonn, the stakes extend well sprawling blueprint of longbeyond farmers. At the meet- range financial reforms. ing Friday of EU heads of

oduction farming.

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The main function of Friday's meeting will be to add momentum to EU budget talks, which are to culmina at a special summit in Berlin on March 24 and 25. Gerposition, laid out Tuesday in many wants to emerge with a

Because the Friday meeting

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overlooking the Rhine is a man finance minister, argued groundwork for the Berlin gathering, "there will be no resolutions," the official said.

For now, however, talks are tangled in a conflicting patchwork of national and regional interests. Reflecting the potential for clashes, one German described a successful outcome "for Europe" at the Berlin summit as "an agreement in which none of the partners are happy."

The euro's disappointing performance lies at the heart of Europe's economic dilemma, pitting politicians against the

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Continued from Page 1 has the most to lose. The farm state, Germany will not shy in the stately Petersberg Hotel ECB. Mr. Lafontaine, the Ger-expected to yield forceful dis-"working summit" to lay the over the weekend that a weak leaders to converge behind curo could help promote closed doors for a final round Europe's exports. But while of "psychological and dra-politicians such as Mr. Lafon-matic" leverage for the Bertaine help drive the euro lower lin summit. with their remarks, central Most attention Friday will bankers want to halt the be directed at the "Big 5" EU

> prominent figure on the ECB's board, warned Saturday that the ECB "will certainly not be able to cut rates" if the euro falls further. [Wim Duisenberg, head of the Enropean Central Bank,

said Monday that the euro's current weakness against the EU economic aid; and Gerdollar was not only the result of strong U.S. growth but also of political pressure on the ECB to cut interest rates, Bloomberg News reported.

["There has been political into the market," Mr. Duisenberg said at a panel discussion at Landeszentralbank Baden-Wuerttemberg. "I Baden-Wuerttemberg. think it will be only a tem-

porary phenomenon.'']

agreements. Bonn wants EU

erosion. The Bundesbank members with the most to lose president, Hans Tietmeyer, a at the budget talks: France, which will fight to preserve its farm subsidies; Britain, which will fight to preserve an EU annual budget rebate it won 15 years ago; Italy, which will be expected to increase its net payments; Spain, which is fighting to save its inflows of many, which wants to cut its high 11 billion euro annual

INSTOCK MAN

_{ЭВР,} Feb. 2.3

EÜ net payment. Trying to exploit the momentum of the Friday meeting, Chancellor Gerhard pressure to lower rates; this Schroeder will make a whirlexpectation has been carried wind tour of EU capitals from difficult consensus.

Germany also seems willing to make concessions on its own position. Instead of deep immediate budget cuts, it ap-The German delegation pears willing to settle for an took pains to lower expec- agreement to stretch out a detations ahead of the meeting crease in German payments Friday. The "non-summit" is between 2000 and 2006.

${f WTO}$: Seeking a Slot for China

Continued from Page 11

Both governments are searching for ways to bolster their relationship, which has badly frayed since the euphoria of Mr. relationship, which has badly frayed since the euphoria of Mr. Clinton's visit last spring as China cracked down harshly on political dissidents and the bilateral trade deficit widened.

American and Chinese officials hope that relations will be strengthened by the planned April visit to Washington and other American cities by Mr. Zhu, who cuts an appealing figure abroad. But apart from possible trade organization entry, there do not appear to be other opportunities for major new agreements to announce.

While a finished deal by April on trade appears impossible, "the goal is to get the big issues in place by the time of Prime Minister Zhu's visit," said Kenneth Lieberthal, the senior White House adviser on Asia, who accompanied Mr. Summers.

"The U.S. business community has to see any agreement as commercially viable," Mr. Lieberthal added. "Without that support it will never work."

INTEREST RATES

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Monra open int 47,857, up 746 PORK BELLIES (CMER)

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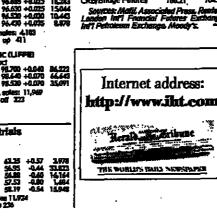
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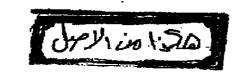
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Industrials





To Sweeten

Takeover Bid

By Daniel Liefgreen

Special to the Herald Tribune

suffered a major setback late Mon-

day when Italian stock-market reg-ulators rejected its hostile bid for

Telecom Italia SpA, was scrambling Tuesday to restructure its \$58 bil-

lion offer for the telecommunica-

One financial source close to the

Olivetti camp said the company's

managing director, Roberto Cola-

ninno, was rushing to revise and

sweeten its bid by increasing the cash component of the original offer

market recognized that," the source

said. "To have a chance to win this

battle, you have to enrich the offer.

and this means boosting the cash

part," he said. "It's not an easy

merchant bank Mediobanca SpA,

which is among the banks advising

Olivetti, was trying to assemble a

consortium of Italian banks to back

a large capital-increase proposal

that would help fund the operation.

He declined to provide details.

Communications Minister Sal-

vatore Cardinale, who met with Mr. Colaniano on Tuesday, said the

chief executive appeared deter-mined to move ahead with his au-

dacious plan to seize control of

ward in its attempt to take over

Telecom," he was quoted as saying

Wednesday to call a special share-

increase. An Olivetti spokesman de-

Consob, the Italian securities reg-

ulatory agency, said Monday that

Olivetti's offer was unacceptable in

its present form on several grounds, including its being conditional on

Omintel Pronto Italia SpA and fixed-

line operator Infostrada SpA to Man-

nesmann AG of Germany. Olivetti

denied that the offer was conditional

on the Mannesmann sale.

Olivetti's board is due to meet

by Italian news agencies.

clined to comment further.

'I believe Olivetti will go for-

Telecom Italia.

scenario. It's very difficult." The source said the Milan-based

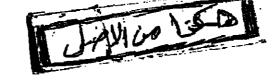
The price was too low, and the

of cash, shares and bonds.

tions concern.

ROME - Olivetti SpA, which

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Germany to Cut Corporate Taxes

Lafontaine Pledges Top Rate of 35% but Offers No Timetable

Tuesday that the government would proceed with a mand would lead to balanced development between plan to cut maximum corporate taxes to 35 percent from as much as 47 percent in an effort to bolster the sagging economy. He declined to give a time frame

for the changes, however.

A corporate tax rate of 35 percent would be "the absolute maximum" and for medium-sized companies the rate would be lower, Mr. Lafontaine said in a speech to the Bundestag, or lower house of Parliament. "With these measures, Germany's tax rates, also compared with other countries", will be put in an extremely positive position," he said.

The call for a tax cut came as Mr. Lafontzine presented his 1999 federal budget for a first reading by the Bundestag. Mr. Lafontaine is predicting a budget deficit of 28.8 billion euros (\$31.79 billion), marginally narrower than the 1998 deficit. If the tax cut is adopted, it would leave the German

corporate rate five percentage points higher than the rate in Britain, whose maximum rate is being cut in April to 30 percent from 31 percent, according to the Economist intelligence Unit.

Mr. Lafontaine's comments followed a govern-

ment report Friday that German gross domestic product fell 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 1998. the first quarterly decline in almost three years, and a report by the Ifo economic research institute that German business confidence fell in December. Mr. Lafontaine will present the findings of a com-

mittee of tax experts at the end of this week. In his speech to Parliament, Mr. Lafontaine also said Germany would feel the effects of the world economic slowdown more clearly in 1999 than it had in 1998.

"Currency-rate developments, particularly in Southeast Asia, have aggravated the situation for German goods," Mr. Lafontaine said, putting the pinch on exporters.

When exports can no longer keep the economy going, he added, "domestic demand must take on more responsibility for ensuring sufficient growth." Group of Seven finance ministers and central presented at a news conference March 25.

bankers agreed at a meeting Saturday in Bonn that a BONN - Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine said strategy for promoting growth led by domestic decountries, he said.

The budget Mr. Lafontaine presented also includes mild stimulatory measures, with public spending at a federal level of 249.5 billion euros being sought; that would be 6.8 percent more than in 1998. But the Finance Ministry said that the spending figures for the two years were not directly comparable and that, stripped of one-time items, the budget represented an

increase of only 1.7 percent.

Mr. Lafontaine said he hoped to have the budget adopted in May.

The budget aims to fight unemployment, the government's No. 1 priority, and combat social injustice, Mr. Lafontaine said. "We're creating new impulses for more growth

and more jobs," he said, according to a copy of his prepared speech. The government is forecasting a decline in un-

employment in the year as a whole, with the number of people out of work expected to fall by a total of 150,000 to 200,000. The jobless rate is expected to decline to an average 10.5 percent of the working population from 11.1 percent in 1998. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

■ VW Earnings Soar 65%

Volkswagen AG, the largest carmaker in Europe, posted a 65 percent increase in profit for 1998, to 1.15 billion euros (\$1.26 billion), news agencies reported from Wolfsburg, Germany. Sales increased 18.5 percent, to 68.62 billion

But Volkswagen warned, in its preliminary profit

report, that the global economic difficulties would make it difficult to beat the 1998 figure this year. "A further improvement in group net profit in 1999 will be difficult to achieve given the crises in the

global automobile markets," the automaker said. Details of the year's corporate results will be

Wednesday to call a special share-holders assembly to review a capital BSkyB and Canal Plus Generate a Buzz

possible linkup between British Sky television providers, but analysts full merger. said an outright merger was unlikely because of regulatory hurdles.

doch, and Canal Plus could shave 10 analyst at J.P. Morgan & Co:

"The economics of a merger Shares of Canal Plus slipped 1.20

LONDON — Newspaper reports percent to 30 percent from movie The Wall Street Journal and Itali-Tuesday revived speculation of a programming costs, analysts said. an newspapers revived merger spec-But they said a more limited ulation by reporting Tuesday that including its being conditional on Broadcasting Group PLC and Canal transaction, such as an alliance or BSkyB was holding preliminary the sale of its mobile-phone unit Plus SA, the biggest European pay- asset swap, was more likely than a talks with Canal Plus but that the talks might not lead to a deal.

would be compelling, particularly in euros to 293.80 (\$322.26) in Paris, Carving up Europe between terms of lower movie programming while BSkyB rose 18 pence to 535 probably not right away.

BSkyB, controlled by Rupert Mnr- costs," said Nick Bertolotti, a media (\$8.70) in London. (Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

Unilever Sets Investor's Europe A Payout of \$8 Billion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispositives ROTTERDAM - Unilever, the

world's biggest maker of household goods, surprised investors Tuesday by announcing plans for a special dividend and a reverse stock split. The British-Dutch consumer-

goods company, which has been sitting on a cash hoard since selling off its chemicals businesses a year ago, said it would distribute 16 billion guilders (\$8.01 billion) to shareholders.

The dividend, amounting to 14.50 guilders a share for its Dutch shares and 66.13 pence (\$1.07) a share for British stock, is equal to 10.6 percent of Unilever's market value. Shareholders can opt for cash or payment in preferred shares, allowing Dutch shareholders to avoid paying dividend taxes.

In Amsterdam trading, Unilever NV's Dutch shares rose 1.20 guild-ers to close at 69.50. Unilever PLC's British shares closed at 632 pence in London, up 21. Unilever also announced a 41.2

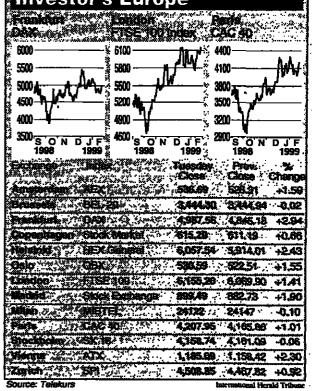
do not include capital gains booked in 1997 from the sale of the specialty-chemical assets. Operating profit for the year rose 28.5 percent, to 9.72 billion guilders. Unilever has been trying to get rid

of what it considers noncore assets to cut costs and focus on its strong stable of consumer-product brands

While some investors were glad to see Unilever spend the cash from the asset sale, others said they would rather have seen an acquisition to complement Unilever's brand mix.

"Ît's a bit strange, considering there are so many American companies that could be bought," said Henk timix Vermogensbeheer in Amsterdam. "Takeovers are expensive but more worthwhile in the long term. But Unilever said that even after

paying the dividend and allowing for a 100-for-112 reverse stock split, the company would still be able to make "major acquisitions," though



Very briefly:

percent rise in net profit for 1998, • Thomson-CSF, Europe's biggest defense-electronics excluding extraordinary items, to 6.49 billion guilders. Those figures shares for 895 million euros (\$987 million), and it said it may use the proceeds for acquisitions. • National Westminster Bank PLC's pretax profit more

than doubled in 1998 as a wide-ranging restructuring at the British lender helped cut costs. Earnings jumped to a record £2.14 billion (\$3.47 billion) from £975 million in 1997.

• Bayerische Hypo- & Vereinsbank AG's net profit more than doubled in 1998, to 3.8 billion Deutsche marks (\$2.14 billion) in 1998 from 1.8 billion DM a year earlier, but the results were swelled by gains linked to a share swap in the merger that formed Germany's second-largest lender.

• RWE AG, Germany's second-largest utility, said first-half net income rose 15.2 percent, to 721 million DM, as one-time gains and cost cuts outweighed falling sales. · Ciba Specialty Chemicals AG reported a worse-than-

expected 1998 net loss of 739 million Swiss francs (\$512 million) and said it saw pressure on margins continuing.

Boom, who helps manage 1 billion • Kvaerner ASA, Europe's largest shipbuilder, posted a euros (\$1.1 billion) of stocks at Opfourth-quarter loss of 416 million Norwegian kroner (\$52.8 million) as four of its six business units lost money.

• Casino Guichard-Perrachon SA, France's third-largest publicly traded food retailer, said 1998 net income rose 27 percent, to 1.42 billion francs (\$238 million), helped by the purchase of two discount food retailers. • BG PLC, Britain's gas-transportation company, said

fourth-quarter net income more than quadrupled, to £271 million (\$441 million) from £67 million a year earlier.

Bloomberg, Bridge News, Reuters

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

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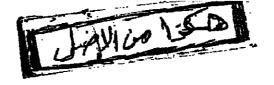
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International Fine Art and Antiques Fair



INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1999 NASDAO Tuesday's 4 P.M. he 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year. Freedy Street, and the street, · 在 11/20 1 **AMEX** Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close The 150 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street. AMAC ARC ARC ARCHI ARLIVING AMENC AMENCE AME

That Is the Bitter Lesson Learned by Dell Computer in a Sell-Off Week

By Allan Sloan Washington Post Service

7 ASHINGTON — For the last five years, Dell Computer Corp. has coined more money than the U.S. Mint. Making even Microsoft Corp. look like a low flier. Dell's stock-market value has risen from less than \$1 billion in February 1994 to more

than \$100 billion now. Its chairman, Michael Dell, who is all of 34 years old, has become one of the dozen richest people in the United States. And there are plenty of Del-

lionaires keeping Michael company. Anyone lucky or farsighted enough to have plunked down \$2,100 for 100 shares of Dell on Feb. 18, 1994, now owns 3,200 shares worth nearly

\$272,000 at Monday's closing price of \$84.875 a share. A 129-to-1 return in five years. Not

too shabby. So why was there endless weeping price and wailing about Dell on Wall Street last week? Because in early February Dell was selling for as much as \$110, or

30 percent higher than Monday's price. What happened? Did the company lose money? Did its profits drop? Did its computers become obsolete? Nope. The problem is that its revenue for the three months ended Jan. 29 was up only 38 1998, it sold 7.77 million machines, ac-Only 38 percent, a figure most companies would kill for.

So even though Dell's profit per share for the quarter was up 55 percent, as

Wall Street expected, the stock tanked. Massive selling drove it down by more than \$20 a share, cutting its stock market value by about \$25 billion.

What kind of world are we living in when 38 percent sales growth whacks

WALL STREET WATCH

tens of billions of dollars off a company's stock-market value? A world in which fantasies and ridiculous expectations have driven prices of some market favorites to the moon.

Proving, once again, that the stock of even a marvelous company can turn out to be a less-than-marvelous investment if somebody buys it at an insanely high

Unlike ephemera, such as Internet stocks, where you are buying potential, hype and moonbeams, Dell is a real company with real revenue (\$18.2 bil-lion in fiscal 1999) and serious profits

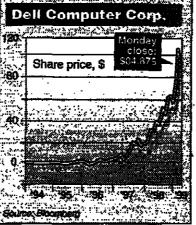
percent, less than the Street expected. cording to International Data Corp. of Mountain View, California. But anyone who thought that Dell's profits and stock price could continue expanding exponentially forever was ignoring the laws

Unless the law of gravity is repealed, it is impossible for Dell's stock to replicate its performance over the last five years, which has seen its stock rise from 66 cents, adjusted for stock splits, to its current level.

At Monday's closing price, Dell's 1.27 billion shares were worth almost \$108 billion. If the stock were to continue rising at the same rate for another five years, Dell would be worth more than 120 times what it was on Friday. Call it, conservatively, \$12 trillion more than the gross domestic product of the United States.

Now, just for fun, let's assume that Dell's computer sales rise at a similar pace. The company would have to sell about 950 million computers in the year 2003. That is almost one computer for every household in the world. In a word, notgonnahappen.
None of this is to say that Dell is a bad

company. Or that its stock price will not Dell peddles made-to-order personal rise. But there is no way its sales, profits computers directly to consumers. In — and especially its stock price — can or later something has to go wrong.



keep rising at the rate that Wall Street

has come to expect. Dell is one of the Big Four high-tech stocks that have been major factors in driving up the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite index over the last few years. One of the other stocks, Intel Corp., hit an air pocket recently, on fears of competition in the chip business. You have to wonder how long it will be before the other two, Microsoft and Cisco Systems Inc., have their own days of reckoning.

These are all very fine, profitable, rap-idly growing companies. The problem is not the companies or the business, but their stock prices. When your profits have to grow 50 or 75 or 100 percent a year, forever, to justify your stock price, sooner

Atlus showed prototypes at a trade

Atlus rivals cashed in on the photo-

sticker fad with knockoffs, and a Sega

Enterprises Ltd. spokeswoman at Amusement Expo 1999 could not hide

"I don't 'think we'd exclude the

show last week and will release ma-

thinking outside the box."

her interest in NailMore.

Goldman Weighs Retail Sales Of Stock Through 21 Of Stock Through the Internet

By Joseph Kahn New York Times Service

firm struggles to figure out how to play the Internet, an advantage may lie with those that, like fresh recruits to a midnight poker game, have yet to put their chips on the table.

Ûnlike its chief rivals, Goldman, Sachs & .Co. has never been a retail brokerage firm, meaning that it does not purchase of that kind. have an army of brokers selling stocks to the public. Only a year ago, Goldman retail business that it risked becoming a niche player in financial markets. The undergoes a serious correction, Goldman will likely issue shares as early as late Internet could change all that.

way would be to work out a joint venture ecutives said.

with an on-line brokerage firm, possibly FMR Corp.'s Fidelity Investment Co., Charles Schwab Corp. or E*Trade Group NEW YORK — As every Wall Street Inc. Another way would be to create its own on-line brokerage offering.

But the people close to the firm dismissed as highly unlikely the possibility that Goldman would buy E*Trade or another publicly traded on-line leader. saying that sky-high stock market valuations of Internet companies rule out a

The strategy discussions are taking place as Goldman itself prepares to go was seen as lagging so far behind Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. and Merrill Lynch & Co. in the lucrative retail business that it riched beautiful and the control of the lucrative retail business that it riched beautiful and the control of the

April, people at Goldman said privately. Going public and developing a Goldman is now actively studying aways to become a retail broker using the internet, people close to the firm said. One Going public and developing a strategy for the Internet are seen as separate but related activities, Goldman ex-

E*TRADE: A Glitch Turns Into a Crisis

Continued from Page 11

Nash emphasized, and E*Trade could easily handle its daily trade capacity.

What was more, only the trading portion of E*Trade did not work; users could

But that morning reporters were askstill find stock quotes, financial news and other data. A reserve team of 40 customer service managers was activated downstairs, near the cot where Ms. Chrapaty often sleeps.

The chief operating officer, Kathy Levinson, appeared on CNBC early in

Mrs. Nash launched a crisis-specific blitz, where company executives per-sonally called hundreds of "high-

volume' customers. Trading was halted for 75 minutes from 10:15 A.M., New York time. The technical staff placed a "patch" over the bad code to let trading resume. After the market closed, technicians removed the bad code entirely — or so they thought.

They awoke to a bitter déjà vu. Trad-

day upgrade. Some of the troubled code had bled into the site's trading area again, although not all subscribers were

ing about something else: The New York State attorney general's office had just announced it was investigating the online trading industry after dozens of complaints from customers.

"E*Trade is cooperating fully with the investigation," Mrs. Nash said in many variations Thursday. She emphasized that New York was investigating e-mail address. She also led a phone several on-line brokers, not just E*Trade, and that it was unrelated to that week's troubles.

Friday dawned with sublimely quiet and smooth e-trading. It all exploded again at 12:20 P.M. with a 29-minute interruption. "We believe we've got it all fixed." Mrs. Nash told Bloomberg News. "But then again, we believed that this morning.

The dramas of Feb. 3, 4 and 5 offered a cautionary lesson in the fallibility of

Japanese Firm Scores a Hit With 'Fingernail Art'

By Gary Schaefer

TOKYO — The Japanese company that turned the photo booth into a social phenomenon thinks it has another winner on its hands.

Atlus Inc., a small video-game maker when it rolled out a machine that reproduced the user's likeness onto a sheet of tiny stickers. Print Club quickly became a cultural reference point for trendy Japanese teens, and profit at the company shot up 150-fold to 3.64 billion yen (\$30 million) in the two years to

has investors imagining another Print Club: coin-operated nail art.

NailMore will paint small designs onto fingernails with a precision ink jet for 150 yen a finger. Designs include more than 100 cute pictures and sayings including "I'm looking for a boyfriend" - and Atlus says future models based in Tokyo, hit it big four years ago will have an electronic sketch pad so that the digitally daring can design their

"Girls can send messages to their sweethearts on their fingernails, and mothers and daughters might enjoy go-ing for matching designs," said Kaoru Sakaida, a company spokesman. "We

But NailMore is no game to investors. the company for WestLB Securities Pa-Arlus shares have skyrocketed 80 per-cific Ltd. "They've got a lot of people Atlas shares have skyrocketed 80 percent since news of the machine reached the market Feb. 16, closing Tuesday at 1.590 yen, up 90 for the day. But shares still have a long climb to get back to the chines in the spring. People at the show, 9,000 yen they attained in October 1997; including representatives of competing when the Print Club phenomenon was at companies, lined up to get their nails

Analysts gave the company high marks for originality in coming up with another form of coin-operated entertainment appropriate for boutiques and other locations outside the smoky, ear-split-

ting confines of video arcades.

"I don't 'think we'd exclude the
"Atlus took the game concept out of idea," said Miyako Shimizu with a ing was down again Thursday. a cautionary lesson in the fallibility of E*Trade blamed the trouble Thursday Internet commerce coupled with the volthe game centers and put it into regular smile on her face — and a tiny black cat places." said Lisa Spicer, who follows on her fingernail. like to think of it as 'nail fun' rather than on another "aftershock" from the Tues- atility of stock-market livelihoods. Now Atlus has fingered a concept that 'nail art.'' **Advertisement** INTERNATIONAL FUNDS d by fund groups to: STANDARD & POOR'S MICROPAL, 1: 33-1 40 28 09 09, e-mail To receive free daily quotations for your funds subscribe at: e-funds@int.com February 23, 1999 Lyora Raab: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or o-mail: funds@iht.com I AM Resista And CIS Fond
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The New, Global HSBC Reflects a 20-Year Transformation Midland Banks Ltd. in the United If Hong Kong plays a lesser role Kong and, to a lesser extent, China. HSRC's public image these days. China.

HONG KONG -- Peering down from the 28th floor of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. building, which resembles nothing so much as an urban oil rig, there is little doubt that the bank, one of the world's richest, was built on a geyser of wealth from this former British colony.

But as the bank announced its 1998 earnings here Monday against the spectacular backdrop of Victoria Harbor, one could not help wondering: What ever happened to the Hong Kong in Hongkong Bank?

For the first time, the bank's London-based parent, HSBC Holdings

PLC, reported its full-year earnings in U.S. dollars. HSBC executives said they would seek a listing on the New York Stock Exchange this year, in addition to the company's listings in London and Hong Kong. Having U.S. shares would make it easier for HSBC to acquire a bank in the United States should it desire to do so.

And in the most symbolic announcement, HSBC executives laid out plans to market the company's far-flung holdings — from British Bank of the Middle East to Marine

will all be changed to

In doing so, analysts said, HSBC is trying to fashion a global brand name to compete with Citibank in many world markets.

A spokesman for Citigroup Inc. Citibank's parent, said Tuesday it would build up its consumer banking and other operations in South Korea with the goal of doubling market share, Bloomberg News reported from Seoul.] A streamlined global HSBC is the

product of a two-decade transformation from a local Hong Kong bank into the world's fifth-largest bank by market value. Even amid Asia's financial crises, HSBC has been among the world's most profitable banks.

'The group's strategy of diversifying our assets has clearly been undertaken so that we don't have too many eggs in one basket," said Keith Whitson, the chief executive of HSBC, in an interview. "I think the strategy has been vindicated by the events of the last 18 months."

late last year, that the names of those Asia have gone from being the moholdings, including Hongkong tor that drives HSBC to a shuddering brake on the company.

Thanks to a huge increase in provisions for bad loans at Hongkong - we've experienced in this region." Bank, HSBC's overall net income fell 21 percent, to \$4.3 billion, in 1998. While profit rose 0.2 percent in Britain and 11.8 percent in the United States, it plummeted 46 per-

cent in Hong Kong. Five years ago, Hong Kong generated two-thirds of the pretax profit

of HSBC Group. In 1998, it generated just 37 per-

Indeed, 1998 was the first year in HSBC's history that its Hong Kong and Asian operations contributed less to overall profit than its European operations: 38 percent versus 44 percent.

The results did not surprise analysts. They were, however, a sobering reminder that Asia's financial crisis is far from over.

Although the bank said its markets in Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea had bottomed out, it said it was still battling a rising tide of bad loans in Malaysia, Hong

backbone of our group," Mr. Whitson said. "But I don't think anybody could have seen the dramatic devaluations and downturns that

In the last century, of course, the bank has successfully weathered wars, revolutions and financial crises in Asia. It had been the dominant banking power in the booming trading city of Shanghai before the Communists took control in 1949 and seized the bank's ornate office building for the local party

headouarters. And while the bank is currently playing down its Asian roots, some analysts say that HSBC is poised to go on a shopping spree for distressed banks in the region. HSBC's \$700 million acquisition of a controlling interest in Seoulbank of South Korea, announced Monday,

appears to be its first such deal. Still, HSBC is clearly climbing out of the Asian trough and making itself a different company. By plunging into the American capital markets, HSBC is ready to stake its

claim as a pre-eminent global bank. But first it must remake its in-

Britons from elite schools who presided over their Asian outposts almost like colonial governors. HSBC is now training specialists in growth areas such as personal

wealth planning and credit cards. Although HSBC is still ruled by international officers - a corps of 350 generalist bankers who can hop from Brunei to Buffalo, New York, with aplomb - it has begun to recruit outsiders from Citibank and McKinsey & Co.

"It's an evolutionary process," said Roy Ramos, a banking analyst with Goldman, Sachs & Co. in Hong Kong. "HSBC had a very inbred culture, and it worked. But they could use new blood."

HSBC's decision to sell its shares in New York has prompted speculation that the company may hope to raise capital to acquire a major American bank. Wells Fargo & Co. is the most frequently mentioned candidate.

"Everybody is trying to match us up with somebody; it's amazing," Mr. Whitson said. "We're not about to go charging off just for the sake of making an acquisition or a merger We're very focused on shareholder



Thai Central Bank **Wants Lower Rates**

Bloomberg News

BANGKOK - The central bank called on commercial banks Tuesday to reduce lending rates already at their lowest levels in almost three decades — to help companies battle Thailand's deepest recession in a generation.

Bangkok Bank PCL, Thailand's largest bank, cut its best lending rate Tuesday to 9.75 percent from 10.5 percent, while the third-ranked Thai Farmers Bank PCL lowered rates half a percentage point, to 9.5 percent, the lowest rate of any Thai bank. Still, the Bank of Thailand says further cuts are needed. "The recent cuts in lending rates are not enough," the central bank governor, Charumongkol Sonakul, said.

Japan Bonds Tumble After Weak Auction

TOKYO — Japanese bonds suffered their biggest loss in two weeks Tuesday as an auction of 10year bonds met weak demand ahead of a flood of new debt to fund programs to revive the economy.

The sale of 1.4 trillion yen (\$11.58 billion) in bonds was poorly received despite a series of government efforts to spark demand. The government reduced the size of the sale, cut overnight interest rates, and stepped up bond purchases, but still investors shied away from the auction.

The supply situation is still bad despite the government's efforts, so I don't feel like buying maturing in 2008 fell 0.96, or 479 next month. (Bloomberg, AFP)

Nikko International Capital Management Co., with assets of 900

Finance Ministry plans to flood the days after the central bank cut its market with 71.1 trillion yen in target for the overnight lending bonds in the fiscal year starting rate between banks to 0.15 percent April 1. That represents a 23 percent increase in bond sales from the current year.

The sales are part of a spending program aimed at reviving the economy, which is projected to shrink 2.2 percent in the year end-

new 10-year bonds," said Akinori yen per 50,000 yen bond, to Ito, chief portfolio manager at 99.563, the biggest decline since Feb. 5. That pushed the yield up 12 basis points to 1.855 percent.

The benchmark yield declined Investors are wary because the 41 basis points in the previous five from 0.25 percent on Feb. 12.

The Ministry of Finance also had announced it would auction just 1.4 trillion yen of 10-year bonds this month, less than the 1.8 trillion yen originally planned. In addition the ministry plans to buy ing March 31. 300 billion yen in bonds from the The benchmark No. 203 bond secondary market by the end of

Earnings Halved For Matsushita

Bloomherg News

OSAKA, Japan — Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., the world's largest maker of consumer electronics, said Tuesday that third-quarter earnings fell almost by half because of sliding prices for computer displays and hard-disk drives.

Net income at the maker of Panasonic, National, 'Quasar and Technics brands slipped more than expected to 20.3 billion yen (\$166.7) million), in the October-December quarter, from 39 billion yen in the like period in 1997.

Sales shrank 7 percent to trillion yen.

Matsushita forecast that earnings and sales will both decline further for the year ending March 31.

Very briefly:

• Hong Kong consumer prices fell in January for the third straight month, by 1.1 percent from a year earlier, and HSBC Holdings PLC is forecasting deflation for 1999 of 1.5 percent. • The Export-Import Bank of Japan signed contracts in Seoul to lend \$1.05 billion to the South Korean energy companies Korea Electric Power Corp. and Korea Gas Corp.

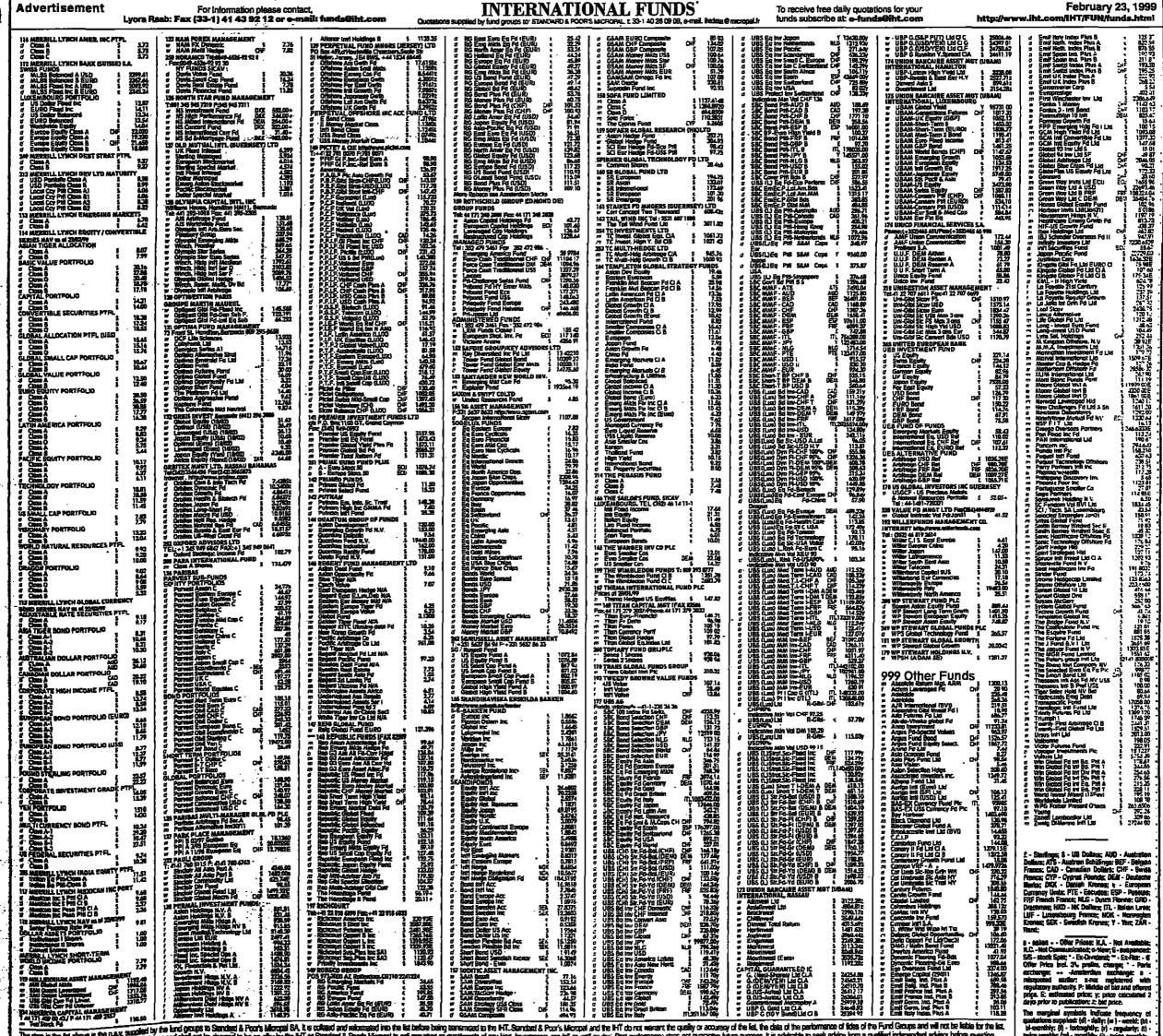
• Taiwan's current-account surplus fell 77 percent, to \$525 million, in the fourth quarter of 1998 as exports to other Asian nations dropped. For all of 1998, the surplus in goods, services and money transfers slumped 55 percent, to \$3.45 billion.

• Thailand's auto industry will see an increase in import taxes on vehicle parts, but the government also said it would abolish content rules for cars and trucks assembled locally.

• Philippine Airlines Inc. agreed to resume payments to General Electric Capital Corp. and two other aircraft lessors. heading off attempts to seize much of its remaining fleet. • Deutsche Bank AG, Europe's second-biggest bank, hired

Wei Ding from the World Bank to head its China business. · Solomon Lew, one of Australia's richest men, raised his stake in Hoyts Cinemas Group, the second-largest cinema company in Australia, to 5 percent.

 Australian company profits rose 3.7 percent to a record 13.25 billion Australian dollars (\$8.3 billion) in the fourth quarter, above market expectations. Bloomberg AFP



Herald Eribune **SPORTS**

Atlanta Offenses 'Not Worth Inquiry'

OLYMPICS The U.S. Olympic Committee intends to inform the International Olympic Committee this week that Atlanta officials who bid for the 1996 Summer Olympics gave excessive gifts and airplane tickets to IOC members but that the USOC does not intend to investigate these improprieties, the organization's top lawyer said.

Atlanta bid officials "clearly violated some rules," Scott Black-mun, the USOC's general counsel, said Monday. 'Looking at the cost of this thing to us, I've recommended to our leadership here that our money is better spent on athletes and programs than it is on a whole new investigation of an organization that doesn't exist any

Blackmun also said the USOC, in response to a subpoena, has shipped 22 boxes of records to the U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City, Utah, where a grand jury is ex-amining allegations of bribery involving former members of the Salt

Lake City bid committee. (WP)

• Sergio Santander, who faced expulsion from the IOC for his role in the Salt Lake City scandal. resigned Monday as president of Chile's national Olympic committee. Santander, 72, has admitted receiving \$4,700 from Tom Welch, former president of the Salt Lake City bid organizers, but called it a personal contribution to an unsuccessful political campaign in 1993. Santander cited medical reasons for stepping down.

Vikings Coordinator Dies

FOOTBALL Chip Myers, the Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator, has died of a heart attack, the team said Thursday. He was 53.

Myers was promoted to offensive coordinator just a month ago after Brian Billick left to coach the Baltimore Ravens.

Myers was a receiver for eight years with the Cincinnati Bengals, and made the Pro Bowl once.

A Minneapolis radio station reported that Myers died Monday night at his Minneapolis home. The San Francisco 49ers traded

Ty Detmer, a backup quarterback, to the expansion Cleveland Browns. The Browns gave the 49ers a fifth-round draft pick and swapped fourth-round picks. Detmer, 31, signed a seven-year, \$14

million contract with the Browns. · New Orleans on Monday terminated the contract of Heath Shuler, an underachieving quarter-

Alou Could Miss Season

BASEBALL Moises Alou, an All-Star outfielder with the Houston Astros, ripped up his left knee when he fell off a treadmill and is expected to miss most, if not all, of the season.

Blackhawks Fire Coach

ICE HOCKEY Dirk Graham was fired as coach of the Chicago Blackhawks on Monday. Assistant Lorne Molleken took over as interim coach. Graham, 16-35-8 in his first season as coach, will remain with the organization. (AP)

Ref Charged with Murder

SOCCER A South African soccer referee appeared in court in Johannesburg on Tuesday charged with murdering a player. Police said the incident occurred Sunday at a small stadium 180 kilometers (110 miles) northwest of Johannesburg in a match between the Try Agains and the Wallabies watched by 600 spectators.

28 Fnto-Lay's

32 Put away

35 Eene sightings

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WORLD ROUNDUP Ali's Daughter Follows In Father's Footsteps

'I'm Going to Be Like Dad's Son That He Never Had — I've Always Been Aggressive'

By Timothy W. Smith New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES - Laila Ali went to her father's Beverly Hills hotel suite three weeks ago to get his blessing. She had decided she wanted to box, to follow in his footsteps and perhaps one day earn some six-figure purses. But Laila Ali, 21 vears old and her hands already bearing the scars from her early work in the ring, did not know how to begin, and so she sat down across from her famous father and

just blurted it out in one long stream.
"Well, Daddy," she said, recalling her conversation with her father. "I want to tell you I'm going into professional boxing, and I love you, and I want your support, and I want to tell you that even if I don't have your support, I'm going to

do it anyway."

Muhammad Ali, his face an expressionless mask as the result of Parkinson's disease, dropped his head and paused. "But I don't want you to get hurt," Laila Ali said her father told her.

his voice barely above a whisper. "Daddy, I'm not going to get hurt," she said. "I'm going to be fighting women, not men. And I have your genetics."

Muhammad Ali laughed. Then, he asked his youngest daughter among nine children to stand up and show him her best prefight stare-down. He told her to



Laila Ali, Muhammad Ali's daughter, at a local gym in Los Angeles.

"I'm going to be like Dad's son that always been a big healthy girl. I've always been aggressive."

not a surefire inherited trait, and because turing into tougher neighborhoods. she has yet to throw a punch, it is im-

star or a flop.

Christy Martin, the top female boxer in the game, said Ali could be a great one else was trying to get out, because I wanted to experience the other side," she said. "When people find out you're bonus for the sport. Martin earns Muhammad Ali's daughter, they try to \$100.000 to \$150,000 a bout, while female boxers at the start of their careers down from a fight." She is convinced,

typically make about \$200 a round. 'If she has to use her father's name, that's absolutely fine." Martin said. "If you have a break, use it to its fullest."

'She is Muhammad Ali's daughter,' she added, "and that's fine. If it were Muhammad Ali's son, he'd get the same breaks as she would."

boxing is a publicity stunt, she is going to great lengths to pull it off.

She comes to the gym every night like clockwork," said Richard Allen, the owner of the L.A. Boxing Gym, where the lightweight world champion, Shane Mosley, works out. "She really works hard. She wants to learn. And she's not a prima donna.

Right now, her biggest opponent is a heavy bag, and she admits she is a neophyte. She said she wants to box because it is in her blood and she believes she has a natural appetite and ability. Her trainer, Kevin Morgan, agrees. He thinks Ali, who runs a beauty salon as her day job, will be ready for her first professional bout in about six months.

Laila Ali is one of two daughters Muhammad Ali had with his second wife, Veronica. The two divorced when Laila was 7. She never saw her father box in person, and she has few memories of living under the same roof with him. But by boxing, Laila Ali believes that her father will gain a greater appre-ciation for her as his child.

"He's naturally going to see himself in me," she said, adding, "For the first time, I think he actually can see that this is my child."

Her determination to fight with or without his approval, she said, underscored that sense of recognition. "Dad never listened to anybody," she said

with a smile. "So what can he say?"

Indeed; her father's approval is grudging, at best. A longtime friend of Muhammad Ali, who declined to be identified, said he had once asked him what he would do if his oldest say. This what he would do if his oldest son, Ibin Muhammad, now 25, wanted to box.

"He said first he would try everything he could to talk him out of it and then he'd do everything he could to help him," the friend said. "I would think he's probably on that first stage with Laila right now. He probably wants to and a 62 percent free-throw shooter, see how she's going to look in her first missed his first 18 attempts this season. couple of bouts.

The friend also said that as of two years ago Ali had opposed female boxing because it went against his Muslim beliefs. Ali also was not keen on the decision of another daughter, Miriam, to be a standup comedian. Lonnie Ali, the former champion's wife, said the elder Ali had no comment on Laila's decision to box.

keep her hands up, and the two, father and daughter, reluctant tutor and aspiring protégé, pretended to throw jabs in comment of Lana 3 decision to comment do with Muhammad.'

"He told me that it was a dirty busihe never had, and I don't mean to sound ness," Laila Ali said. "He let me know rude," said Laila Ali, whose older broth- it's a hard business, and he let me know er has shown no inclination to fight. that he supported me. That was my main "I'm the only one who can do it. I've conceru."

Laila Ali said that she and her sister, Hana, grew up in Malibu, California, The prospect of Laila Ali, a woman with their mother but that she was always with a marketable name but no proven trying to escape her neighborhood's skills, becoming a professional boxer comforts. She said she had several street raises many questions. Boxing talent is fights growing up, mainly after ven-

"I was one of those kids who was possible to know whether she will be a trying to get into the ghetto when everythen, that she can at least take a punch.

"We all know that I can get my eyes busted and my nose broken no matter who I'm fighting," she said. "Hopefully, it won't happen. But if it does, it's just boxing. And if it bothers me that much, I can get plastic surgery.

The prospect of pain does not deter her, nor does her father's physical con-"But at some point, she's got to prove that she can fight," Martin said. "It won't last long if she can't fight."

At 5 feet 10 inches tall (1.78 meters) and 160 pounds (73 kilograms), Laila Ali is statuesque. She can be both petulant and playful, but there is no hint of insincerity in her expressive eyes. If her

Allen Iverson of the 76ers slicing between Vitaly Potapenko, left, and Danny Ferry of the Cavaliers to put up a shot in the second quarter.

Lockout and Defense Put NBA in Scoring Drought

By Mike Wise

NEW YORK — Vin Baker, the Seattle SuperSonics' all-star forward After the 19th shot rattled round the rim and in during the seventh game of the season, Baker felt he had rid himself of an enormous burden.

The fact that a National Basketball Association player would be delighted at making a free throw may seem ridiculous to most fans, but it is becoming the way of life in the post-lockout NBA, the ague that can't shoot straight.

Overall scoring has been declining each season in the 1990s, but new marks for offensive futility are being set in this shortened season.

Thorn, the league's senior vice president Jazz traveled to Seattle for its fourth a high-energy player.' for basketball operations. "Wait a month or so to gauge where we really are. It's still early. But even Thorn, who was in charge of

implementing four rule changes before the 1997-98 season that were aimed at improving the overall quality of play (read: kick-starting stagnant offenses), has to be concerned after two weeks.

Teams are averaging 90.9 points a game, down from 95.6 last season. The 1993-94 season average was 101.5 points a game.

Ten teams are averaging fewer than 90 points, and only one — the Sacramento Kings — is averaging more than 100. What is more, three teams last week set regular-season franchise scoring lows, including one of the NBA's best passing teams, the Utah Jazz. The Detroit Pistons set franchise lows

twice recently, scoring 69 points in a loss New York Knicks and then 64 on thou in a loss to San Antonio. And the Philadelphia 76ers, featuring the electrifying guard Allen Iverson, failed to reach 70 points in back-to-back games last week

Nowhere was the problem more evident than at Madison Square Garden, where the Knicks and the Chicago Bulls the NBA's two lowest-scoring teams got together for an Eastern Conference scrum. The Knicks won a horrendous display of basketball, 79-63. holding the Bulls to a franchise-tying

It was the fourth time in nine games that New York had held an opponent to fewer than 70 points.

Either there is some incredible de-a half-court offense, and they'd like to use being played or NBA players have ddenly become more proficient at "But people are putting two and three fense being played or NBA players have suddenly become more proficient at

more fatigue," Knicks Coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "Also, too, the fact that defense is always ahead of offense in every sport has an effect. I think scoring will pick up. It's just a matter of

The main culprit seems to be the labor dispute, which forced the league and the players union to cram 50 games into 89 days - and three games into three nights on some occasions

The abbreviated two-week training camp and major roster changes have added to the poor quality of play.

Nettlesome injuries, too, have plagued the league, with prolific scorers such as Charles Barkley and Glen Rice sidelined for at least another few weeks.

Utah's 71-56 loss to Seattle last Tuesday was clearly the result of a tired and sore team unable to put the bail in the game in six nights without the banged up starting guard Jeff Hornacek.

Baker was one of several players who showed up at training camp 15 pounds

The Bulls are indicative of chemistry problems; fans can hardly make out who the new-look Bulls are without a pro-

Teams are simply shooting worse

than they were last season, too.

Field-goal percentage is down more than two percentage points overall, from 45 percent last season to 42.6 percent this season. "I think the trend in the league -

notwithstanding that this season is anaberration - is that there are fewer and fewer shots, and fewer and fewer points scored," Thom said. "I think it says a lot about the caliber of defenses. There aren't many teams that get shots off in the early part of the shot clock. Teams are usually running patterns that take between 16, 17 and 24 seconds. Consequently, there aren't as many shots

"It's become a possession game,"
Thorn added. "Coaches are caught up in not wanting turnovers: 'Don't push it up the floor. Get the best shot you can.'

Van Gundy does not totally agree, contending that teams want to run more, but they simply cannot. Two years ago, he was also a harsh critic of new rules. saying at the time, "Unfortunately in the NBA at this point, we're trying to make up rules to hide deficiencies of play-They know how hard it is to score in

chipping paint off the rim.

players back in transition. The good

"It's the long layoff, which leads to
lack of skills and conditioning and the
compressed schedule, which means

Lakers Need A Hand, and Rodman Is On the Way

On a strange day in the National Basketball Association, one of the strangest events took place well away from any basketball court.
In Beverly Hills, California, Dennis

Rodman, the free-agent forward, was in front of the cameras again Monday, acting as he always does.

At a news conference called by the seven-time defending rebounding champion to announce his intention of joining the Los Angeles Lakers, Rodman was tearful, vulgar, flamboyant and

NBA ROUNDUP

flustered as he said he planned to be in uniform alongside Shaquille O'Neal and

Kobe Bryant soon. A source close to Rodman said late Monday that while a contract had not been finalized, the deal was basically done. The source also said that Rodman, 37, expected to make his debut with the Lakers on Friday night against the Los Angeles Clippers. The Lakers issued a statement minutes after the news con-ference ended, saying they hoped to have Rodman signed and in uniform

"very soon."
"What will make me happy is if I can bring this city a ring just like I did in Chicago," Rodman said. "I'm here just Chicago, "Rodman said. "I'm here just because I want to make people happy. I miss entertaining. I miss entertaining for the people. I play for the people. I give the people what they want."

"I'm not happy at all," he said, referring to the fact that the Lakers could offer him only a \$1 million veterans minimum, which would be prorated to under \$500 000 because of the shortened

under \$500,000 because of the shortened

season and the games he has missed.
"He doesn't have any money." Rodman's sister said before the forward

abruptly ended the proceedings.
The Lakers could have used Rodman
against the Nuggets on Monday night as
O'Neal and Elden Campbell fouled out
before Los Angeles lost, 117-113, in overtime in Denver.
Nick Van Exel, the Denver guard who

was discarded by the Lakers last summer, shot 1-for-12 in regulation but scored seven points in the extra period as Denver won for just the second time this season. The Lakers, playing the second of three road games in three nights, dropped to 6-5. f'm hoping that this is going to give

us a boost, because we need one," Laker guard Derek Harper said of Rod-"Well, we're not scoring a bunch of basker. Coming off an overtime victory man's impending arrival. "Getting him points, are we?" said a deadpan Rod at home the night before, the veteran will help. We need help as a team. He is

neapolis, Kevin Garnett, Stephon Marbury and Joe Smith combined for just five points in the fourth quarter, but Sam Mitchell scored 12 and Malik Sealy had 🛚 🥬 mine as the Wolves extended the best start in franchise history. Magic 107, Kings 96 In Orlando, the

surprising Atlantic Division leaders shut down Sacramento's entertaining rookie, limiting Jason Williams to seven points and seven assists. Nick Anderson scored a season-high 30 points, Penny Hardaway had 23

points and eight assists and Anderson and Darrell Armstrong hit clutch 3-pointers down the stretch after the Magic squandered most of a 13-point lead. 76ers 106, Cavaliers 97 Allen Iverson

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THE OWN DEED

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scored 37 points as Philadelphia won on the road. Iverson, who lit up the Cavs for a career-high 50 on April 12, 1997, scored 16 points in the third quarter as the Sixers opened an eight-point lead entering the final period. Suns 101, Mavericks 83 In Phoenix, Jason Kidd had 17 points, 12 assists and

10 rebounds despite the flu as he posted his third triple-double in five games and the 23d of his career. Jazz 104, Clippers 89 Shandon Anderson scored 13 of his 17 points in the

second quarter as Utah beat Los Angeles at home to improve its league-best record to 9-1.

Bulls 77, Hawks 68 Chicago won in Atlanta in an atmosphere decidedly different from the previous time the Bulls were in town. During the Michael Jordan farewell tour last season, the Bulls drew an NBA record crowd of 62,046 at the Georgia Dome. On Monday, the crowd was 8,258

Mark Bryant scored 16 points, Toni

CROSSWORD 13 Dramatist Clifford

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bookie 17 it may be hit with a hammer 18 Chessy part of the neck? 20 Kind of nerve 22 Bašpark ligure 23 Tennis call 24 Chessy 60's TV show?	comedy? 44 Coupling 45 Element fou in Geiger counters 46 Word with si or quake 47 Writer on mi David —— 51 View								
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ACROSS

5 Teaser 10 Survival

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15 "They Died With Their Boots On,"

53 Cheesy TV private eye 57 Wheel of Fortune* **58** Ballpark figure

63 Cheesy gabber 67 "Hawaii Five-O" ss Item designed to

59 Lowest deck

71 Sones. zoologically 72 Like happy

DOWN 1 Kind of blocks a Shrimp 4 Fingers s "Utalume" poet

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to Dadaism founder (1964 hat) 55 Track events 56 Convocation of bedroom 60 Cousin of Sven

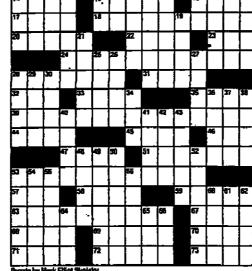
21 City north of Sacremento 25 Hosiery shade 28 Kind of ring or swing 27 Racketeer 29 Feature of an empty house 30 Furtire look 36 Denizens of the 46-Across 37 it comes in black and white 38 Part of a deck

40 Will of 'The Waitons* 41 Complaint 42 "Space cadet" 43 Año starter 48 Not an Iron 49 Peers so Beaverlike fur

52 Photographer's 53 "Thriller" singer in tabloids

65 Half and half

O New York Times/Edited by Will Short, 61 Cnes of surprise Internet address: 64 Narcs employer: Abbr.



http://www.iht.com

On a Streak, Capitals Beat Maple Leafs

have recovered from their Stanley Cup hangover. The Capitals, who lost to Detroit in last year's final, struggled for the first half of the season but they have put themselves back in sight of a playoff spot by winning eight of their last 11 games. Washington started the season winning only seven of its first 22 home stopped 20 games, but its 4-3 victory over the in Tampa.

Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday night was its fifth straight at home. Mike Eagles scored the tie-breaking goal with 13:57 left, and James Black added an insurance goal with 11:12 remaining for the Capitals, whose recent surge has lifted them within four points of the Florida Panthers for the final

Eastern Conference playoff spot.

they're battling for their position in the standings and we're battling for ours." Devils 3, Lightning 2 Brian Rolston straight night, but the Penguins still

NHL ROUNDUP

Roiston opened the scoring at 17:10 of the first period and put the Devils ahead 3-2 with 4:54 left in the second period.

Brodeur stopped Benoit Hogue on a first-period breakaway and stopped Chris Gratton and Darcy Tucker from point-blank range in the second period. shor from beyond the red line eluded six games.

The Associated Press

"It's a huge win," Capitals coach Ron

Nikolai Khabibulin, the Phoenix goalie,
Wilson said. "Every team you play now,
to set Pittsburgh on course for victory. Jaromir Jagr, the league scoring lead-

er, was held scoreless for the second scored twice and Martin Brodeur stopped a three-game losing streak. Stu Barnes had a two-goal game and Alexei Morozov also scored for the Pen-

stopped 26 shots to help New Jersey win Blues 5, Kings 1 Pavol Demitra had two goals and two assists as St. Louis extended its home unbeaten streak over Los Angeles to seven games.

Flames 6, Rangers 2 In Calgary, Cory Stillman and Phil Housley each scored twice as the Flames beat New York. Stillman and Housley scored in both the second and third periods as the Penguins 4, Coyotes 1 Ian Moran's: Flames extended their unbeaten streak to

JAVIOR 150

the Cervix

1.5.

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Warned of Belay

SPORTS

Pretnar's 2d Run Wins Slalom Gold

Blistering Pace Vaults Her to Top

The Associated Press Pretnar of Slovenia turned in from Ramsau, Austria." a blistering second run in difficult snow conditions to win Belmondo won her second a women's World Cup slalom under the lights Tuesday ing the women's 10-kilome-

Premar, who was ninth after the first run, had a combined time of 1 minute, 26.93 Monday, which also served as seconds down Gastrappet, the the first leg of the pursuit. He only illuminated slalom and started the pursuit 57 seconds giant slalom course approved behind Myllylae, the 10-ki-by the International Ski Fed-lometer and 30-kilometer

It was sweet revenge for the young Slovenian, who came close to winning the Myllylae and Bjorn Daehlie, event in the recent World Ski the Norwegian multiple Championships at Vail, Col-Olympic champion, around orado, where she skied out the 12th kilometer. As Alslate in the second run.

who led after the first run, dropped behind. finished second, 18 hundredths of a second behind

Anja Paerson, the 17-yearold Swedish sensation, was gaard said. third, .25 behind. Fellow Swede Pernilla Wiberg, runnerup in the world championship slalom, was another one-hundredth behind in fourth place.

■ Alsgaard Is Victor

Thomas Alsgaard of Norway, the Olympic champion, won the men's 15-kilometer freestyle pursuit in the Nordic Ski World Championship on minutes, 35.9 seconds, for a was much stronger today and Tuesday, edging Finland's combined time of 1:05:54.9. earned his gold medal." Mika Myllylae by 0.7 seconds Fulvio Valbusa of Italy was

in blizzard conditions, The ARE, Sweden - Spela Associated Press reported

Earlier, Italy's Stefania gold medal of the week, takter freestyle pursuit.

Alsgaard was 15th in the 10-kilometer classical leg But Alsgaard steadily cut

the deficit and caught up with gaard surged ahead, Myllylae Trine Bakke of Norway, stayed with him, but Daehlie

Once I caught up with Myllylae, my tactic was to in the home stretch," Als-The plan worked, just as it

did for Alsgaard in the 1998 Olympics, when he edged Daehlie at the finish line. Myllylae was unable to push ahead as the two sprinted home next to each other.

Olympic champion and the most successful cross-country skier ever, finished sixth. Alsgaard finished in 41



stay behind and rest and sprint Stefania Belmondo celebrating her victory in the women's 10-kilometer freestyle pursuit in Ramsau.

third, 22.7 seconds behind. "Before the race, I didn't lometer race, made her move think it was realistic to think just after passing the halfway of the gold," Alsgaard said.
"I just tried to run at my

Myllylae was upset about said. "I wasn't happy. But it the 1992 Olympics. wasn't why I lost. Thomas

Belmondo, who also won

"It was a tough race, but I Dachlie, the eight-time racing in blizzard conditions. am very happy about the way lympic champion and the "My opinion is that we it turned out," said Belmondo, ost successful cross-counshould not have raced," he the 30-kilometer champion in Nina Gavriliuk of Russia

mark and kept up the pace until

she crossed the finish line with

an Italian flag in her hand.

finished second, 28.9 seconds

FIFA Shows Who's the Big Boss

ONDON --- If the law according

to the Dickens character Mr. Bumble is "a ass ... a idiot." what does that make the keepers of the law? In soccer the caricature penned by Charles Dickens more than a century ago seems appropriate. FIFA, which governs should matter to this sporting industry, soccer in 203 countries, hastened to praise the decision of England's Football Association to replay a cup game in which Arsenal beat Sheffield United by a goal that breached an unwritten code of sportsmanship. "A wonderful gesture," said Sepp Blatter, the FIFA president,

"in the best spirit of the game." The rematch was set for Tuesday. Players were primed to play the game again in the true spirit of sportsmanship. Police officers were drafted to secure the stadium and the streets around Arsenal's Highbury home in north London. Some 38,000 tickets were printed and sold — at half price — and 6,000 Sheffield folk negotiated time off work or off school and set aside their savings for the costly business of repeating the nearly 640kilometer (400-mile) round trip for a Cup match annulled by common consent.

But last Saturday, at a meeting of the International Board, the ultimate council of soccer law, Michael Zen-Ruffinen, once a referee and recently elevated by Blatter to be FIFA general-secretary, blew the whistle on those, including his boss, who had been quick to praise this rebirth of Corinthianism.

FIFA, Zen-Ruffinen declared, needed clarification of what law England's FA applied to sanction the gesture made by Arsenal and accepted by Sheffield. And FIFA, having done nothing for a week, proposed an Emergency Committee to long before FIFA invented it-

back, and Irina Taranenko- comes," Zen-Ruffinen suggested, "and pulsively agreed — and impulse makes Terelia of Ukraine was third. one of them is that the replay will be questionable law — but once announced of The Times of London.

Vantage Point/ ROB HUGHES

canceled." Mr. Bumble lives. The emerit had to stand. Imagine the repercussion, journey to London, after the fans, who made their arrangements.

It continued in Zurich long into Monday evening while, apparently, senior FIFA members upbraided Blatter for applauding English fair play without consulting the body of FIFA opinion. In London, the FA breathed defiance and Arsenal suggested that, with or without blessing from on high, it would play the match a second time or withdraw from the competition.

This weird tale began after a Sheffield player had been injured and the ball was kicked out of play so he could receive first aid. By custom, Arsenal should have thrown the ball back to Sheffield at the restart; instead Nwankwo Kanu and Marc Overmars took advantage of Sheffield's expectation of fair play and scored.

No written law was broken, but the accepted spirit of fair play was. So Arsenal offered the replay and, to popular acclaim, it was agreed. However, dissent grew because of fears of setting a precedent and because some FIFA executive committee members decided to show that they, not the ancient Football Association in London, are the lords of

Finally, and, we are told, narrowly, word came Monday evening, that FIFA conditionally consented to the replay Tuesday. The condition bound both teams to sign a declaration that the origdecide whether to allow the English the inal result stands in the record books but honor of replaying a game unique in the that they accept the outcome of the rehistory of a competition begun 127 years match as decisive for qualification for the next round.

I think FIFA wasted the emergency "There are a number of possible out- session. The replay may have been im-

gency session began Monday afternoon, in terms of real law, had the game been after the Sheffield team had started its canceled at the 11th hour and someone had been hurt in the pursuant anger of the

The pity is that FIFA could have used its meeting for something which deserves higher priority. Young players around the globe are preparing for FIFA's world Under-20 championship in Nigeria in April. The dangers to their bealth are grave. This is neither the first. time Nigeria has been promised the event, nor the first fears that instability and disease make Nigeria an irresponsible choice of venue.

Players of Leeds United - the English again! - were withdrawn from selection during the weekend.

"It's not a football decision," said David O'Leary, the Leeds manager. "The board decided not to release any of our players. If FIFA says we can't use them here while the tournament is on, we're not worried, but the welfare of those players' has to be our first concern,"

Leeds is a team built on youth. Five of its starlets were chosen, by England or. Ireland, for the Nigeria tournament. There is disquiet over recent kidnappings. fear over reports of military and police harassment, alarm over British Foreign Office advice to beware crime and not to take internal flights in Nigerian, where aircraft maintenance is suspect.

Africa is important to soccer. It is a basin of emerging talent in need of help and hope. Its votes helped elect the last two FIFA presidents. But Nigeria, which invested \$100 million in infrastructure and was then deprived of the 1995 Under-20 tournament at short notice after outbreaks of cholera and meningitis, was deemed potentially harmful to health. There are fears over both diseases again.

Rob Hughes is the chief sports writer

TRANSITIONS

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

NBA—Fixed Los Angeles Lokers C Sho-quille O'Neol \$1 0.000 and Houston Rockets F Scottle Pippen \$5,000 for Criticizing officials.

CINCINKATI - Numed Steve Mooshqqiq

wide receivers coach.
GREEN BAY —Signed G Raleigh McKenzie
and QB Math Hassetback to multiyeer contracts. Signed WR Tyron Goodson. Waived
LB Anthony Hicks.
MIAMI —Signed CB Greg Jeffries. TE
Rickey Brody and FB Jamie Reader.
MIMMESOTA —Re-signed LB Ed McDaniel

CHICAGO —Fired Dirk Graham, coach.
Named Lorne Molleken interim coach and.
Trent Yarmey assistant coach.
COLORADO —Recalled G Marc Denis from.

COLDIZADO "AFCCORREA O MORE DENIS MONI.
HESHEY, AHL.
EDMONTON — RECORDE G Steve Passmore.,
C Chris Fernan and LW Dan LaCourture from
Hamilton, AHL. Returned D Tadd Reinden
and C Boyd Devereoux to Hamilton.
FLORIDA — Assigned G Todd MacDonald
to Many Hamica. AHI

NEW ENGLAND -Signed P Lee Joh

SCOREBOARD

103-313 Rebouads — Chicogo 53 (Kukoc 10), Affanta 53 (Henderson 15), Assists — Chicogo 20 (Kukoc 6), Atlanta 10 (Blaylock, BASKETBALL **NBA STANDINGS** .700 .625 .600 .556 .900 .800 .400 .455 .333 .200 .182

U.S. COLLEGE SCORES MONDAY RESULTS TOP 26 No. 4 Come. (24-2) beat Provide 21 (Anderson 10).

Chicage 29 23 10 15— 77
Attanta 14 23 15 16— 48
C:Bryant 7-9 2-3 16, Kukac 5-13 0-0 11, Brown 5-8 1-2 11; A: Henderson 5-12 6-6 16 Long 5Indiana 52, 65, Illinois 52, 64

Kansas 67, Oklahema \$1.66, OT N. lowa 83. Drake 57 Texas Christian 76, UNLV 72 THE AP WOMEN'S TOP 25

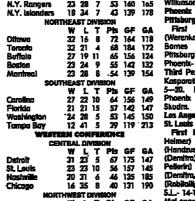
(STOCKOTO 4).

Defices 15 26 20 22—82

Phoenix 22 26 22 30—161

D: Ceballos 9-16 0-0 21, Finiley 6-16 2-2 17; P:
Chapman 7-12 2-2 18, Manning 7-8 3-4 17.

Rabounds—Dallas 47 (Bradley 7), Phoenix 45 (Oldd 10). Assists—Dallas 20 (Pack 5), Phoenix 1 (Oldd 10). ICEHOCKEY



Washington

First Period: W-Konowalchuk 12 (Bulis,
Bondra) (pp). 2. T-Valis 6 (Konlew, Berzzin)

3. T-, Kohn 1 (Sundin, Thomas) Second
Period: W-Oates 10 (Gonchar) Third Period: New Jersey 1 2 0—3
Tampa Bay 1 1 0—2
First Period: N.J.-Raiston 16 (Holist, Odelein) (pp). 2 7-Lecrovaler 10
(Stopinsev. McCorthy) Second Period: T-Lecrovalier 11, 4 N.J.-, Odelein 4 (Elias) 5, N.J.-Raiston 17 (Niedemsgrey) Third Period: Norse Shelt on page 14, 18, 9, 11–28, T. 11.



C-sure 13 (H-sury, Housey) (pp), Section Periodic C-Housey 6 (L.mdry) 4, N.Y., Stevens 15 (Gretzly, MocLean) (pp), 5, C-Stillman 16, Taird Periodic C-Stillman 17 (Gauthler, Dubbrisky) (sh), 7, C-Housley 7 (Iginto, Smith) 8, N.Y., Mothatha 6, Shols on goat: N.Y., 10-9-12—31. C 11-18-9—38. Goalies: N.Y., Cloutier, Richter, C-Brathwafte.

1. Pete Samprus (U.S.) 3.695; 2. Yevgeny Kafeinikov (Russic 3. Alex Correfia (Spain) 3.250 4. Carlos Maya (Spain) 3.234 5. Patrick Rafter (Australia) 3. 5. Partick Ratter (Australia) 3,169 6. Marcelo Rios (Chile) 2,880 7. Tim Herninan (Britain) 2,789 8. Andre Agassi (U.S.) 2,583 9. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 10. Greg Rusedski (Britain) 2,253 11. Todd Martin (U.S.) 2,201 Thomas Engvist (Sweden) 2.03. 17. Cedric Ploline (France) 1,745
18. Mgrk Philippoussés (Australia) 1,719
19. Thomas Johansson (Sweden) 1,645
20. Jan Siemerink (Netherlands) 1,620
WTA RANKUNGS Marting Hingis (Switz.) 5,722 points
 Lindsay Davenport (U.S.) 5,547
 Jano Novotno (Czech Republic) 3,94

J. Jano Novomo (Czech Republ 4. Monico Seles (U.S.) 3.823 5. Venus Williams (U.S.) 3.220 6. Arantxa Sanchez Vicaria (Sp 7. Steffi Graf (Germany) 2.810 8. Mary Pierce (France) 2.248

10. Amendo Coetzer (South Africo) 1,985
11. Dominique Van Roost (Belgium) 1,92
12. Potity Schnyder (Switzerland) 1,922
13. Anna Kourmikova (Russko) 1,913
14. Sandrine Testud (Fronce) 1,872
15. Irina Spirien (Romania) 1,844
16. Conchitu Marfinez (Spain) 1,749
17. Natinsha Zvereva (Belarus) 1,693
18. Amelie Mauresmo (France) 1,625
19. Barbara Schet (Austria) 1,487
20. Sitvia Forina (Nath) 1,427

W. INDRES BOARD XI Y AUSTRALIA FIRET DAY, 2-DAY TOUR MONDAY IN ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

9a: 156 all ou est Indies Board XI: 1-3.

SKIING

WORLD CUP

1. Speig Preinor (Sio) 1:26.93 2. Trine Bakke (Nor) 1:27.11 2. I nne Batate (NOT 127.1)
3. Anip Poesson (Swe) 1:27.18
4. Pemilia Wiberg (Swe) 1:27.19
5. Claudia Riegier (N2) 1:27.42
6. Zoil Stegali (Aus.) 1:27.42
6. Karin Koßerer (Auf) 1:27.57
9. Sobhre Egger (Auf) 1:27.57
10. Stephanie Guv-Clement (Frai)

1, A. Meissnitzer, Aust., 2 min., 12.97 sec

2. Anita Wachter, Austria, 2:13.62. 3. Andrine Flemmen, Norway, 2:14.80. 4. Sonja Nef, Switzerland, 2:14.88. 5. Anna Ottossan, Sweden, 2:15.10. 6. Deborah Compagnoni, Haly, 2:15.16. Anna Orrosson, Sweecet, 21.5.10.
 Deborah Compagnoni, Holy, 2:15.16.
 Kann Roten, Switzerland, 2:15.21.
 Leilo Piccard, France, 2:15.31.
 Spela Pertner, Slovenia, 2:15.40.
 Birgil Heeb, Liechtensfein, 2:15.56. 10. Birgil Heeb. Liectitenslein. 2:15.56.
GIANT SLALOM:1. Meissnitzer, 620 ; 2.
Wochier, 43&; Flemmen. 378; 4. Heeb. 267;
5. Martina Eril, Germany, 244; 6. Ne6, 243; 7.
Compognoni, 220; 8. Janica Kostelic, Crootia,
214; 9. Piccard, 197; 10. Ottosson, 188.
OVERALL: 1. Meissnitzer, 1,430; 2. Hilde
Gerg, Germany, 980; 3. Eril, 944; 4. P. Wiberg,
Sweden, 859; 5. R. Cavagnoud, France, 764; 6.
Renate Goefschi, Austria, 678; 7. Kostelic, 475; 8. M. Dorfmelster, Austria, 670; 7.

NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Stefania Belmondo, It., 42 min., 27.9 sec.s.

3, Irina Taranento-Terello, Ukraine, 42:02.
4, Anfisa Rezissova, Russia, 43:07.3.
5, Olga Donillova, Russia, 43:14.6.
6, Kristina Smigun, Estonia, 43:20.4.
7, Antoniari Ordina, Sweden, 42:39.0.
8, Bente Martinsen, Norway, 43:45.9.
9, Maria Theuri, Austria, 42:46.2.
10, Sophie Villeneuve, France, 44:10.0.
MRRY'S TSK FREESTLYP PURSUIT.
T. Alsgard, Nov., 1 hr. 5 rink, 24.9 sec.
2, Mika Mythylae, Finland, 1:05:55.6.

netsce, Finland, 1:06:18.5. Jook Mae. Estenia, 1:06:19.0. 5. Joak Mos, Estonia. 138:19.0.
4. Bjern Doehle, Norwoy, 136:19.4.
7. Alexel Prokurorov, Russia, 136:20.1.
8. Alais Stadlober, Austria. 1:06:22.9.
9. Per Eloisson, Sweden. 1:06:29.6.
10. Fablo Mol. Roly. 1:06:30.0.
MEN'S TEAM SKI-JUMPENG

2. Japan (Noridki Kasai, Hideharu Mivahim

Grand Rapids, IHL. KIX -Recalled C J.F Jomphe and C

EASTERN KENTUCKY-Named Jim Tonora

DENNIS THE MENACE





Justing: Knacy Guart Butanie Debtor Arsegr ignes ha lungoil director considered

FEBRUARY 26 AND 27 THE FAIR FOR EVERYONE INTENDING TO LIVE AND WORK ABROAD

PEANUTS



GARFIELD

MY NEW GOLDFISH

TO ROMP MEANS TO PLAY OR FROLIC IN A BOISTEROUS, LIVELY WAY..











what do 4011 suppose Happened to It, garfield?



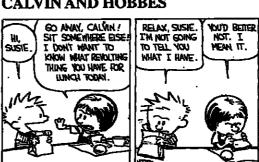
BLONDIE



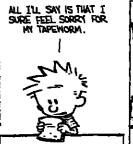














WIZARD of ID





NON SEQUITUR



LEARNING THE FIRST LESSON OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND ...



ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ACTINGS AUGHT BONG AND TOMOTHERER, LIZ CLANDORNE AND RALAH LAU-REN ALL JUST BOTT SLEV RORUS



By Daniel Williams

art form, releases of major films in Russia have been re- even though Yeltsin's governentertainment events.

In a big, self-conscious lion budget. way. Russia renewed the tradition Saturday night. "The Barber of Siberia," the most expensive Russian production since the collapse of the Soviet Union, premiered and not just in a movie theater, the Sun," and his list of hits but inside the Kremlin walls. dates back to Soviet times.

Until now, movies here have largely focused on the a story of love between an dark side of life - economic American prostitute and a hardship, mafia shootouts, young Russian military officer corrupt Russians scheming on a decayed urban battle- the late 1800s. The prostitute, ground. But in "The Barber played by Julia Ormond, has of Siberia." all Russians are come to Moscow to persuade a noble, and Russia, at least in Russian aristocrat to pay for its 19th-century version, is the development of a machine picture-postcard beautiful.

Galas are out of fashion in crisis-depressed Moscow, so this premiere was a break in Palace, a Soviet-era be- the Barber of Siberia. hemoth. An army band played and boys in 19th-century mil-

The guest list included leaders past and present: Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, former Prime Minister Chemomyrdin and the Communist Party leader. Gennadi Zvuganov. Also present were heads of other political parties

and the cultural elite. The ghost at this banquet was President Boris Yeltsin. who rarely makes appearances logist of our statehood.

nowadays because of chronically bad health. Perhaps more curious than his missing MOSCOW — Ever since presence was the absence of Lenin singled out his name in the list of thankmovies as the most important yous announced by the film's director, Nikita Mikhalkov, garded as political as well as ment put up millions of dollars to bolster the movie's \$45 mil-

> Mikhalkov is Russia's most contemporary filmmaker. He won an Oscar for his 1994 film "Burnt by

"The Barber of Siberia" is named Andrei Tolstoy, set in that cuts down trees at a horrific rate. The inventor, played by Richard Harris, wants to harvest timber all the way the gloom. The movie was from the Urals to the Pacific shown in the State Kremlin coast - he calls his machine

The Russian actor Oleg classical tunes in the lobby Menshikov plays the cadet who falls in love with the prositary uniforms danced with titute, attacks his commanding girls in white gowns. Ushers officer in a fit of jealousy and handed out souvenirs. officer in a fit of jealousy and is sent off to Siberian exile.

Despite that sad scenario. the joint French-Russian production is largely light-hearted. "Barber" shows Russians as they prefer to see themselves: fun-loving, naive

and basically good-hearted. Mikhalkov's myth-making comes in the midst of a ponderous search for a post-Soviet identity. "Whether we want it or not," said the magazine Kommersant Vlast, "this Hol-Iywood-scale myth-maker becomes the main and only ideo-

Blondie Revives Its Modern, Charismatic Sound

By Ann Powers New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Do you really want to know the whole odd story?" asked the guitarist Chris Stein, peering skeptically across the coffee table in a midtown hotel suite. He was explaining why Blondie, the punk era's best-selling group and, later, one of its many train wrecks, has regrouped after 16 years to record "No Exit," an album of new studio material.

Encouraged to tell all, Stein dived into an anecdote that was typically Blondie: very New York. marked by surprising connections and full of charm.

"I live in TriBeCa, which is being horrifically gentrified," he began. "My neighbor was getting kicked out of his loft. I was trying to raise money for his legal fees, but I don't really have any money. So I was going to sell a couple of my gold records. I called up a rock 'n' roll collector who turned out to be the husband of Jackie LeFrak, the daughter of the housing developer And her sister was the girl Denise was written about.

"Denise." a hit for Randy and the Rainbows in 1963, is a catchy throwaway written by the veteran songwriter Neil Levenson in honor of LeFrak, whom he spotted at a Long Island swimming pool. Thirteen years later. Blondie remade the song as the gender-bent "Denis." and it became an international hit.

A blonde had conquered twice with "Denise," first as muse and then as singer. Stein, 49, felt lucky when the two blondes converged again, and at the urging of Denise LeFrak's brother-in-law, he started organizing the band's return.

borah Harry, 53, whose lustrous was both an embodiment and a voice and famous fondness for per- parody of mass-marketed desire. oxide gave her band its name. "Everything is so totally absurd. You have to start recognizing and cher- other's throats. Tax problems and ishing the absurdities in life because you can't stop them." .

All four original Blondie mem- group's profits.



The band members, left to right: Jimmy Destri, Deborah Harry, Clem Burke and Chris Stein.

bers - Harry, Stein, the keyboard player Jimmy Destri, 44, and the drummer Clem Burke, 43 - had reason to listen to fate and consider a comeback. Blondie's success had been the

high point of their public lives. At the turn of the 1980s, the group sold more than 40 million copies of its six studio albums. Songs like "Heart of Glass" and "Rapture" broke ground by mixing rock with disco and rap, while the modernized girl-group style that Blondie also perfected became a blueprint for other female-fronted bands. 'That's why we have to have With her sweet-and-sour voice and humor in what we do," said De- comic sex bomb persona, Harry.

> But Blondie's wild ride ended badly, with the players at one anlegal wrangles with former associates drained away much of the

disease; his long romance with Harry ended after she nursed him through it. Destri briefly became a the revival circuit. The group's contractor in Brooklyn to support his family.

Burke flourished as a drummer for hire in Los Angeles, and Harry continued a lower-key career, acting in independent films and expanding her vocal style with the Manhattan-based Jazz Passengers But the temptation to rekindle Debbie's singing style and how Blondie was great enough for these veteran rockers to take another chance on one another.

"At first we talked about doing a compilation with a couple of new songs," Destri said. "Then I saw the Sex Pistols' comeback tour and got really depressed. I didn't want it to be like that, just rehashing the old material.3

Exit." which is apparent from the evenly distributed writing credits, fronting her own appeal into per-

Stein endured a near-fatal skin highlights the danger that haunts Blondie even more than the risk of becoming desperate denizens of great triumphs had come at a cost: Harry's enormous attractiveness obscured not only the talents of her bandmates, but also her own. "Blondie is a group," one publicity campaign declared, but few

seemed to believe it. 'No one really paid attention to great a writer she was, because they couldn't get past the image,' Destri said.

Harry's fans, and perhaps she herself, could not always see that Blondie's charisma was not just a matter of her good looks. "The Blondie character." as Harry always called it, embodied female

formance, and her bandmares made it into music. Together, they created songs that captured exquisite longing, expressing the same emo-tions their singer aroused.

By making music that examined desire, instead of simply declaring it, Blondie invented a particularly mature form of rock 'n' roll. The group modernized the innocent expressions of the girl groups and garage bands by investing them with greater self-awareness. Each member added to the formula: Burke brought an archivist's knowledge of classic rock; Destri's Farfisa organ resurrected the street dreams of the Shangri-Las, and Stein, a former art student and dedicated bohemian, connected these elements to the Pop Art avant-garde.

In Blondie, Harry becomes the voice her bandmates hear in their heads, their muse talking back to them. But is it Debbie they hear, or is it "Blondie"?

'It's Debbie-Blondie," Destri "Like Batman-Bruce Wayne."

"Maria," the single from "No-Exit" that has already scaled the charts in Europe, is a prime example of this superheroine-style switch. A bouncy ode to infamation written by Destri and roughed up by the one-two punch of Stein's guitar and Burke's drums, "Maria" gains depth through Harry's singing, which mimics the path of a crush from casual interest to swooning

anticipation to desperate insistence. Blondie's music continues to revolve around such romantic mysteries. "No Exit" even includes a version of "Out in the Streets." the Shangri-Las' ultimate expression of yearning, a love letter from a gangster girl to her restless rebel boy.

The new recording's hip-hop beat reveals that Blondie the band still knows what it takes to be modern. But Harry's haunted, haunting voice captures what the band taught the world the first time d material."

sexuality as part threat, part unaround: that love's elusiveness is an intriguing puzzle that never restit." which is apparent from the Harry turned the process of consolves and that pop is an ideal way around: that love's elusiveness is

PEOPLE

dersson, whose record company reone classical musician. Each recipient pany, Serial Killer Inc. It seeks unspe- may have come from the Scottish village gets 1 million kronor (about \$125,000).

The rap star Coolio has pleaded not guilty in Superior Court in California to carrying a concealed weapon in his car. He was pulled over by a sheriff's deputy in September for allegedly driving on the wrong side of a street in Lawndale, California. Coolio told the deputy that he had gun in a door pouch, prosecutors said The deputy allegedly seized a 9mm semiautomatic pistol. The 35-year-old rapper, who was convicted in 1994 of a similar offense, remains free pending a

The head of the squeaky-clean Brady Bunch as a porn queen? No way, says the

pretrial hearing next week.

THE ROYAL Swedish Academy of actress Florence Henderson. She has cified damages. The singer and actress is of Balloch near Crieff in Perthshire, ac-Music has awarded the Polar Music sued a Southern California clothing Prize to the singer Stevie Wonder and maker to prevent it from advertising or the composer Iannis Xenakis. The selling T-shirts and other items bearing with her husband's three boys, formed prize, endowed by the late Stikkan Anher photograph and the words "Porn" TV's "The Brady Bunch" in the 1970s. prize, endowed by the late Stikkan An-her photograph and the words "Porn Oueen." The words are "highly offenleased the Swedish pop group ABBA's sive and false," said her suit filed in Los hits, is given annually to one popular and Angeles Superior Court against the com-

perhaps best known as Carol Brady, the "lovely lady" whose three girls, along

The family of Napoleon Bonaparte

France Honors 2 U.S. Veterans of World War I

The Associated Press NEW YORK — Eleven-year-old Jasmine Holmes had heard the stories before — about how her great-great grandfather fought with the 369th Harlem Hellfighters on the front lines during World War 1.

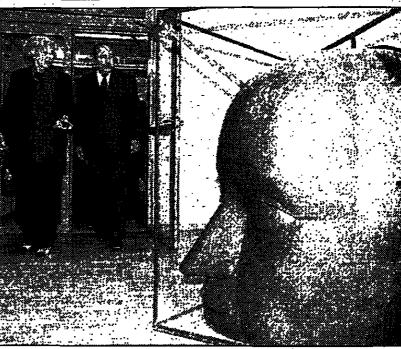
To Jasmine, Corporal Herbert Young was always a hero. On Monday, the 112-year-old retired mechanic's service in France was feted with the country's highest award — the Legion of Honor cross — at a ceremony at the French Consulate in Manhattan. The consulate also honored another sprightly Manhattan centenarian, Private Robert Thomas, a 103-year-old former construction worker.

Both were named knights in the National Order of the Legion of Honor. President Jacques Chirac of France told President Bill Clinton last June that he wanted to give the cross to as many surviving World War I veterans as possible to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the war's end.

cording to evidence uncovered by Robert Torrens, a local historian. Torrens found an account in a book published more than a century ago of how a laborer named William Bayne left Balloch shortly after the failure of the Jacobite rebellion of 1745. Bayne and his family were shipwrecked in a storm and landed in Corsica, according to Torrens. They were known as Bayne, or Buon, and his party," he told The Daily Telegraph. "In course of time, his sons were called Buon-de-party. His grandson was named Buon-de-party and now figures

Dozens of previously unknown works composed by Edvard Grieg during the mid-19th century have been discovered by a German musicologist. Joachim Dorfmueller, president of the German Grieg Society, found them recently in three forgotten study books stored in a safe. A few of the organ and piano works will have their world premieres March 5 and 6 in Leipzig. Germany, where Grieg

in history as the great Napoleon.



HEAD OF THE TIMES — Claude Pompidou, wife of the late former French president, and President Jacques Chirac visiting the "Georges Pompidou et la Modernite" exhibition at the Jeu de Paume gallery in Paris.



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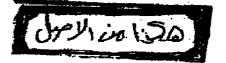


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